



PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - MARCH 2023

WHEREAS, every March, Women's History Month provides an opportunity to honor the generations of trailblazing women and girls who have built our Nation, shaped our progress, and strengthened our character as a people; and

WHEREAS, through U.S. history, despite hardship, exclusion, and discrimination, women have struggled and sacrificed for equity and equality in communities across America. Generations of Native American women were stewards of the land and today lead the fight for climate justice. Black women fought to end slavery, advocate for civil rights, and pass the Voting Rights Act. Suffragists helped pass the 19th Amendment to the Constitution so no American could be denied a vote on the basis of sex; and

WHEREAS, standing on the shoulders of the heroines who came before them, today's women and girls continue to carry forward the mission of ensuring our daughters have the same opportunities as our sons. Women of the labor movement are achieving monumental reforms to help all workers secure better pay, benefits, and safety they deserve. LGBTQI+ women and girls are leading the fight for justice, opportunity, and equality. Women and girls continue to lead groundbreaking civil rights movements for social justice and freedom, so that everyone can realize the full promise of America; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell our Stories"* so we recognize women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, and more. The timely theme honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art, pursuing truth, and reflecting the human condition decade after decade; and

WHEREAS, our experiences have been captured by a wide variety of artists and teachers including authors, songwriters, scholars, playwrights, performers, and grandmothers throughout time. Women have long been instrumental in passing on our heritage in word and in print to communicate the lessons of those who came before us. Women's stories, and the human story, expand our understanding and strengthen our connections with each other. Women such as *Maya Angelou, Jovita Idar, Maxine Hong Kingston, Gloria Steinem, Winona La Duke, Betty Soskin, Willa Cather, Gertrude Stein, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas* have told our stories. In Vallejo some we recognize are *Askari Sowonde, Sherry Prewitt, Katy St. Clair, D.L. Lang, Genea Brice, Sharon McGriff-Payne, Kate Martinelli, Karen Finley, Midge Wagner, Isabel Reyes, Dinah Villanueva-Ryan, Marisela Barbosa-Cortez, and Norma Placido*; and

WHEREAS, despite the progress being made, women and girls — especially women and girls of color — still face systemic barriers to full participation and wider gaps in opportunity and equality. The Congress sent the Equal Rights Amendment to the States for ratification 50 years ago and it is long past time that the principle of women's equality should be enshrined in our Constitution. This Women's History Month, as we pay tribute to the women who tell our stories, let us recommit to the fight and help realize the American vision of a more equal society where every person has a shot at pursuing the American dream.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Robert H. McConnell, Mayor of the City of Vallejo, and the Vallejo City Council, hereby proclaim March 2023 as Women's History Month. I call upon all residents of Vallejo to observe and celebrate the contributions of women and girls to our human story with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

*<https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/2023-theme/>

Dated: March 14, 2023



ROBERT H. McCONNELL, MAYOR

Vice Mayor Rozzana Verder-Aliga, EdD, District 1
Councilmember Tina Arriola, District 6
Councilmember Peter Bregenzer, District 5
Councilmember Mina Loera- Diaz, District 3
Councilmember Diosdado "JR" Matulac, District 2
Councilmember Charles Palmares, District 4