



Influential American Women in History



Susan B. Anthony

(1820-1906)

Humanitarian

- American activist who was a pioneer crusader for the women's suffrage movement in the United States
- President (1892–1900) of the National Woman Suffrage Association
- Co-created and produced *The Revolution*, a weekly publication that lobbied for women's rights under the American Equal Rights Association, which helped pave the way for the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote.



Elizabeth Blackwell

(1821-1910)

Physician

- First woman to receive a medical degree in the United States
- First woman on the Medical Register of the General Medical Council
- In 1973, inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame
- Created the Woman's Central Relief Association during the Civil War and aided in nursing benefits



A black and white portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt, smiling and looking slightly to the right. She has short, curly hair and is wearing a dark, patterned jacket over a light-colored top, with a multi-strand pearl necklace. She is holding a pen in her hands. The background is a dark, grayscale image of the White House with an American flag flying on a tall pole to the left.

Eleanor Roosevelt

(1884-1962)

First Lady of the United States

- Served as the First Lady of the United States from March 4, 1933, to April 12, 1945, during her husband President Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms in office, making her the longest-serving First Lady of the United States
- Persuaded Franklin to stay in politics after he was stricken with a paralytic illness in 1921, which cost him the normal use of his legs, and she began giving speeches and appearing at campaign events in his place
- Roosevelt was a controversial First Lady at the time for her outspokenness, particularly on civil rights for African-Americans
- She was the first presidential spouse to hold regular press conferences, write a daily newspaper column, write a monthly magazine column, host a weekly radio show, and speak at a national party convention



Amelia Earhart

(1897-1937)

Aviation Specialist

- First female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean (twice)
- First woman to fly nonstop, coast-to-coast across the U.S. (1932)
- Set Woman's world altitude (14,000 ft) record in (1922) and speed transcontinental record (1933)
- First woman to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross (1932)

Katherine Hepburn

(1907-2003)

Actress

- American actress of film, stage, and television, Hepburn's career as a Hollywood leading lady spanned more than 60 years
- Won four Academy Awards for best actress ; the most of any other actors





Julia Child

(1912-2004)

Author and Chef

- American cooking teacher, author, and television personality
- Recognized for bringing French cuisine to the American public with her debut cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*
- Created multiple television programs, the most notable of which was *The French Chef*, which premiered in 1963
- Winner of multiple Emmy Awards for her television series, and her book *The French Chef* won the Peabody Award in 1965

Rosa Parks

(1913-2005)

Civil Rights Activist

- American activist in the civil rights movement; best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott
- Received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award given by the US legislative branch, the medal bears the legend "Mother of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement"
- Inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993
- Has received both the NAACP's highest honor, the Spingarn Medal (1979) , and in 1980, she received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award



A black and white portrait of Sandra Day O'Connor, a woman with short, wavy hair, looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a dark, patterned top and has her hand near her chin. The background is a dark, textured wall with faint outlines of architectural elements and an American flag.

Sandra Day O'Connor

(1930-Present)

Supreme Court Justice

- Received unanimous Senate approval and made history as the first woman justice to serve on the nation's highest court from 1981 to 2006
- Prior to O'Connor's tenure on the Court, she was a judge and an elected official in Arizona, serving as the first female majority leader of a state senate, and as the Republican leader in the Arizona Senate
- On August 12, 2009, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama

Gloria Steinem

(1934-Present)

Journalist / Activist

- American feminist journalist and social political activist who became nationally recognized as a leader and a spokeswoman for the American feminist movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s
- Steinem was a columnist for New York Magazine, and a co-founder of Ms. Magazine



Sally Ride

(1951-2012)

Astronaut

- First American woman in space (She was the third woman in space overall, after two women from the Soviet Union)
- Ride remains the youngest American astronaut to have traveled to space, having done so at the age of 32
- Served on the committees that investigated the Challenger and Columbia Space Shuttle disasters, the only person to participate in both



Oprah Winfrey

(1954-Present)

Author and Philanthropist

- American talk show host, television producer, actress, author, and philanthropist
- Her talk show, The Oprah Winfrey Show, broadcast from Chicago, which was the highest-rated television program of its kind in history and ran in national syndication for 25 years, from 1986 to 2011



A close-up portrait of Kamala Harris, smiling and looking slightly to the left. She has dark, wavy hair and is wearing a dark blazer and a pearl necklace. The background is a dark, stylized image of the White House with American flags.

Kamala Harris

(1964-Present)

Vice President of the United States

- United States' first female vice president, and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, and the first African American and first Asian American vice president
- Served as a United States senator for California from 2017 to 2021, and as the Attorney General of California from 2011 to 2017