The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “Women's Equality Day” of the William J. Baroody Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Women's Equality Day, 1974
By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

On August 26th, 1920, American women finally gained the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment was certified as part of our Constitution.

Today, fifty-four years later, the women of America are actively participating in and contributing to all aspects of our economic, social and political life. Many obstacles on the road to equal opportunity have been removed as legislative and executive actions have helped to reduce sex discrimination in education, training and employment. Special efforts have been made in the Federal Government, so that women now contribute more fully than ever before to the formulation and execution of public policy.

But although we as a Nation have come a great distance since 1920, we still have a great distance to go. In 1970, on the floor of the House, I said that the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution was an idea whose time had come. Today I want to reaffirm my personal commitment to that amendment. The time for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment has come just as surely as did the time for the 19th Amendment.

As 1975 approaches, widely proclaimed as International Women's Year, Americans must deal with those inequities that still linger as barriers to the full participation of women in our Nation's life. We must also strengthen and support laws that prohibit discrimination based on sex.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all Americans to observe August 26, 1974, as Women's Equality Day, with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I further urge Americans to consider the essential role of women in our society and their contribution to our economic, social and political well-being. As a Republic dedicated to liberty and justice for all, this Nation cannot deny equal status to women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

[Signature]
Women's Equality Day, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In October 1971 and March 1972, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States adopted a proposed amendment to our Constitution providing equal rights for men and women. By August 26, 1972, twenty States had ratified the proposed constitutional amendment, only eighteen more were needed for the proposed amendment to become part of our Constitution.

August 26 is a significant date because it was on that day in 1920 that the Nineteenth Amendment, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex with regard to voting, was certified as part of our Constitution after ratification by the necessary three-fourths of the States. Recognizing that the proposed Equal Rights Amendment is the logical and rightful extension of the Nineteenth Amendment to rights other than voting, the President has, since 1972, annually set aside the 26th of August in recognition of the real and practical need to ensure that equal legal rights are enjoyed by women and men.

This year, 1975, has been designated as International Women's Year, dedicated to equality between men and women. It is also the two-hundredth year of our Nation—a Nation born, nurtured and dedicated to the proposition that all people are entitled to be equal before the law.

Several more States need to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment before it becomes part of our Constitution. It would be most fitting for this to be accomplished during our Nation's two-hundredth year. In this Land of the Free, it is right, and by nature it ought to be, that all men and all women are equal before the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, to remind all Americans that it is fitting and just to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment adopted by the Congress of the United States of America, in order to secure legal equality for all women and men, do hereby designate and proclaim August 26, 1975, as Women's Equality Day.

I call upon all the citizens of the United States to mark this day with appropriate activities, and I call upon those States who have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to give serious consideration to its ratification and the upholding of our Nation's heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two-hundredth.

[Signature]
Women's Equality Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During this Bicentennial Year we celebrate a dynamic history which began with that inspirational declaration that all individuals are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

To give substance and form to those self-evident truths, "We the People of the United States" created a constitutional republic to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

However, it was not until August 26, 1920, that the Nineteenth Amendment to our Constitution unambiguously secured for each of us, regardless of sex, that precious mark of liberty—the right to vote.

In October 1971 and March 1972, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States proposed a new amendment for our consideration—an amendment, completing the process begun by the Nineteenth, which would secure "equality of rights under the law" regardless of sex, for men and women.

Several more States need to ratify that Equal Rights Amendment before it becomes part of our Constitution. It would be most fitting for this to be accomplished as we begin our third century. In this Land of the Free, it is right, and by nature it ought to be, that all men and all women are equal before the law.

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President  
American Association of University Women  
2401 Virginia Ave., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20037

Mrs. Margaret Fitch  
President  
Intercollegiate Assoc. of Women Students  
Box 2  
2401 Virginia Ave., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20037

Ms. Mary Allen  
President  
American Home Economics Assoc.  
2010 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Ms. Rosamond Gabrielson  
President  
American Nurses Assoc.  
1030 15th St., N. W., Suite 408  
Washington, D. C. 20005

Honorable Jacqueline Gutwillig  
Chairman  
Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women  
14th and Constitution, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20210

Ms. Janice Mendenhall  
President  
Federally Employed Women  
1249 National Press Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20004

Dr. Jean Simmons  
President  
Federation of Organizations for Professional Women  
1346 Connecticut Ave., N. W., Rm. 1122  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Mrs. Carroll Miller  
President  
General Federation of Women's Clubs  
1734 N St., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Ms. Joy Simonson  
President  
National Assoc. of Women Deans, Administrators & Counselors  
1028 Connecticut Ave., N. W. Suite 922  
Washington, D. C. 20008

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President  
National Assoc. of Women Lawyers  
1155 East 16th St.  
Chicago, Ill. 60637

Mrs. Eleanor Marvin  
President  
National Council of Jewish Women  
1 West 47th St.  
New York, N. Y. 10017
Mrs. Marie Bowden  
President  
National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs  
2012 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Ms. Karen DeCrow  
President  
National Organization for Women  
1107 National Press Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Ms. Elizabeth Chittick  
National Chairman  
National Women's Party  
144 Constitution Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Ms. Sissy Farenthold  
President  
National Women's Political Caucus  
1302 18th St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Ms. Arvonne Fraser  
President  
Women's Equity Action League  
National Press Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Ms. Margaret Lawrence  
Chairman  
Women United  
2001 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Suite 805  
Arlington, Va. 22202

Mrs. Elizabeth Genne  
President  
YWCA  
600 Lexington Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Ms. Eleanor Jammal  
President  
Zonta International  
59 E. Van Buren St.  
Chicago, Ill. 60602

Miss M. Ursulle Gallerani  
President  
National Secretaries Assoc.  
2440 Pershing Rd.  
Suite G 10, Crown Center  
Kansas City, Mo. 64108

Ms. Mary Gereau  
Chairman  
National Equal Rights Amendment  
Ratification Council  
National Treasury Employees Union  
1730 K St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Mrs. Maurice Kubby  
President  
American Legion Auxiliary  
1301 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Mrs. Clarie Collins Harvey  
President  
Church Women United  
National Council of Churches  
475 Riverside Dr.  
New York, N.Y. 10027

Ms. Rose Matzkin  
President  
Hadassah  
65 East 52nd St.  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Mrs. Betty Butler  
President  
Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars  
406 West 34th St.  
Kansas City, Mo. 64111

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National Council of Negro Women  
1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Ethel Phillips  
President  
National Council of Women  
345 East 46th St.  
New York, N. Y. 10017

Mrs. Albert Stoutner  
Chairman  
Country Women's Council, U. S. A.  
397 N. Fulton  
Keota, Iowa 52248

Miss Muriel Mawer  
President  
Altrusa International  
332 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Ill. 60604

Ms. Juanita Brown  
President  
National Assoc. of Colored Women's Clubs  
5808 16th St., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20011

Judge Elizabeth Athanasakos  
Chairperson  
Secretary's Advisory Committee on the Rights & Responsibilities of Women  
2633 N. Federal Highway  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33306

Ms. Virginia Allan  
Former Chairman, President's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities  
3504 Stoneybrae Dr.  
Falls Church, Va. 22044

Ms. Eleanor Cockley  
Information Officer  
Women's Bureau  
420 O St., S. W.

Ms. Mary Louise Smith  
Co-Chairman  
Republican National Committee  
310 First St., S. E.  
Washington, D. C. 20003

Mrs. Connie Armitage  
President  
National Federation of Republican Women Clubs  
310 First St., S. E.  
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Ms. Pat Hutar  
U. S. Delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women  
912 Huber Ln.

Mrs. Paticia Nealin  
President  
American Women in Radio and Television, Inc.  
1321 Connecticut Ave., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Mrs. Rosalie McGuire  
President  
National Assoc. of Negro BPW Clubs  
3411 Lynchester Rd.  
Baltimore, Md. 21215
Mrs. Rita Johnson  
U. S. Delegate to the Inter-American Commission on the Status of Women  
7722 Savana Dr.  
Bethesda, Md. 22034

Ms. Olga Madar  
President  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
8731 East Jefferson Ave.  
Detroit, Mich. 48214

Mrs. Esther Strickland  
President  
Delta Kappa Gamma  
P. O. Box 1589  
Austin, Texas 78767

Mrs. Lynette Oliver  
President  
Quota International  
145 19th St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20026

Ms. Margot Sherman  
President  
Women in Communications  
8305 A. Shoal Creek Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78758

Sister Carol Coston  
Executive Director  
Network Staff  
224 D. St., S. E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dr. Ruth Bacon  
Director  
U. S. Center for I WY  
Meridian House  
1630 Crescent Pl., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009
August 30, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROLAND ELLIOTT
FROM: MARGUERITE MCAULIFFE
SUBJECT: Women's Equality Day Proclamation

Please arrange to have the attached letter robo-typed to the individuals on the enclosed list. Only those names which are preceded by check marks need be done.
August 30, 1974

Dear

President Ford recently signed a Proclamation designating August 26th as Women’s Equality Day, 1974. In his Proclamation the President states, "Today... the women of America are actively participating in and contributing to all aspects of our economic, social and political life... But although we as a Nation have come a great distance since 1920, we still have a great distance to go... As 1975 approaches, widely proclaimed as International Women’s Year, Americans must deal with those inequities that still linger as barriers to the full participation of women in our Nation’s life."

The President asked that I send you the enclosed duplicate of his Proclamation as a small remembrance of this occasion. It comes to you with his very best wishes.

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr.
Special Consultant to the President

Enclosure
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Aug 30

Mr. Bryan

Just received by

Karen Hoening of New

Hampshire's staff.

Three sets will receive

the Proclamations as desig-

nated by check marks.

I only have 20 copies

of these Proclamation

leaflets.

Margaret
WOMEN' EQUALITY DAY PROCLAMATION

MAILING LIST

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Interstate Assoc. of Commissions
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League of Women Voters
1730 M St., N. W.
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Miss Muriel Mower
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Ms. Jean Rainey
President
American Newspaper Women's Club
1607 22nd St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

Mrs. Ruth Klotz
President
Soroptimist Federation of the Americas
1616 Walnut
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Mrs. Phyllis Manning
President
Pilot Club International
P. O. Box 4844
Macon, Ga. 31208

Mrs. Patricia Nealin
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Meridian House
1630 Crescent Pl., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20009
Dear Marguerite:

Attached is a list of organizations and individuals which you requested for the distribution of the Women's Equality Day Proclamation.

Thank you again for stopping by to discuss International Women's Year. It looks like we are beginning to move.

Keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Karen Keesling
Director
Office of Women's Programs

Ms. Marguerite McAuliffe
Room 187
Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Attachment
8/22/74

Marguerite:

August 26, 1974

Katie
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
August 22, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Marguerite McAuliffe

The President has signed a Proclamation entitled:

"Women's Equality Day, 1974"

Robert D. Linder
Robert D. Linder
Please send John Carlson 5 copies of the proclamation.

8/23

Talk with Karen Kendig & she will need a list for distribution on Monday.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, 1974
-------------------------------------
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

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the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment was
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Special efforts have been made in the Federal Government, so
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NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the
United States of America, do hereby call upon all Americans
to observe August 26, 1974, as Women's Equality Day, with
appropriate ceremonies and activities. I further urge
Americans to consider the essential role of women in our
society and their contribution to our economic, social and
political well-being. As a Republic dedicated to liberty
and justice for all, this Nation cannot deny equal status
to women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
twenty-second day of August, in the year of our Lord
nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of
the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

# # #
Women's Equality Day, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On August 26th, 1920, American women finally gained the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment was certified as part of our Constitution.

Today, fifty-four years later, the women of America are actively participating in and contributing to all aspects of our economic, social and political life. Many obstacles on the road to equal opportunity have been removed as legislative and executive actions have helped to reduce sex discrimination in education, training and employment. Special efforts have been made in the Federal Government, so that women now contribute more fully than ever before to the formulation and execution of public policy.

But although we as a Nation have come a great distance since 1920, we still have a great distance to go. In 1970, on the floor of the House, I said that the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution was an idea whose time had come. Today I want to reaffirm my personal commitment to that amendment. The time for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment has come just as surely as did the time for the 19th Amendment.

As 1975 approaches, widely proclaimed as International Women's Year, Americans must deal with those inequities that still linger as barriers to the full participation of women in our Nation's life. We must also strengthen and support laws that prohibit discrimination based on sex.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all Americans to observe August 26, 1974, as Women's Equality Day, with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I further urge Americans to consider the essential role of women in our society and their contribution to our economic, social and political well-being. As a Republic dedicated to liberty and justice for all, this Nation cannot deny equal status to women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.
Women's Equality Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During this Bicentennial Year we celebrate a dynamic history which began with that inspirational declaration that all individuals are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

To give substance and form to those self-evident truths, "We the People of the United States" created a constitutional republic to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

However, it was not until August 26, 1920, that the Nineteenth Amendment to our Constitution unambiguously secured for each of us, regardless of sex, that precious mark of liberty—the right to vote. In October 1971 and March 1972, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States proposed a new amendment for our consideration—an amendment, completing the process begun by the Nineteenth, which would secure "equality of rights under the law" regardless of sex, for men and women.

Several more States need to ratify that Equal Rights Amendment before it becomes part of our Constitution. It would be most fitting for this to be accomplished as we begin our third century. In this Land of the Free, it is right, and by nature it ought to be, that all men and all women are equal before the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, to remind all Americans that it is fitting and just to secure legal equality for all women and men, do hereby designate and proclaim August 26, 1976, as Women's Equality Day.

I call upon all the citizens of the United States to mark this day with appropriate activities, and I call upon those States who have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to give serious consideration to its ratification and the upholding of our Nation's heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

[Signature]