



PROCLAMATION
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WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

WHEREAS, in 1848 five trailblazing women organized the Seneca Falls Convention and created the Declaration of Sentiments, a manifesto that called on women to fight for their Constitutionally guaranteed right to equality as U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention, Sojourner Truth delivered one of the most famous women's rights speeches, "Ain't I a Woman?" calling for Black women to be included in women's suffrage; and in 1865, Truth worked at the Freedmen's Village in Arlington Heights; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, Gertrude Crocker, one of the 12 women who participated in the first ever picket protest outside the White House, and a noted suffragist and treasurer for the National Woman's Party, moved to Arlington and became active in civic affairs; and

WHEREAS, the fight for women's suffrage lasted more than 72 years, with women from all walks of life demanding the right to voice their opinions at the polls; yet the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 ensured primarily white women could vote, and it would be another 45 years before women of color had the legal protections to vote through the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the centennial of the ratification of the 19th amendment, women of all backgrounds are not only voting, they are running for and winning elected office in unprecedented numbers, including the highest office in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **August 26, 2020** as

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

in Arlington County and encourage us all to follow in the footsteps of these great suffragists, women's and civil rights leaders, and to continue to be sentinels for democracy and justice.

Libby Garvey
Chair