

# MARCH IS: NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

2014 Theme:  
Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment

The purpose of National Women's History Month is to increase awareness of the history and contributions of women. Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." In 1987, at the request of the National Women's History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month. The U.S. President has issued a proclamation each year to commemorate Women's History Month.

## SPOTLIGHT: Roxcy O'Neal Bolton 20th Century Women's Rights Pioneer

Roxcy O'Neal Bolton is a lifelong advocate for women's rights. She is the founder of Florida's first battered women's shelter and the nation's first hospital-based Rape Treatment Center. Her extensive work also includes convincing National Airlines to offer maternity leave to (instead of firing) pregnant flight attendants; lobbying for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); and persuading the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to name hurricanes after both women and men. Bolton led the effort to create the Women's Park in Miami, which opened in 1992 as the first outdoor space in the nation-- honoring past and present women leaders.

*Taken from the National Women's History Project (NWHP) website: [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org). Each year, the NWHP chooses the theme and honors women for their achievements. Roxcy Bolton was selected as a 2014 Honoree.*



Roxcy Bolton (left) with Eleanor Roosevelt, ca. 1956.