

MARCH IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

2020 Theme: Valiant Women of the Vote

Theme selected by the [National Women's History Alliance](#)

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 the month of March as National Women's History Month.

PROFILES: NOAA's Champions

In Celebration of NOAA's 50th Anniversary, we honor women who advanced NOAA's mission.

Taken From A salute to NOAA's Champions - <https://www.noaa.gov/noaa-50th-champions>

Dr. Susan Solomon

When a hole appeared in the ozone layer over Antarctica in the 1980s, Dr. Susan Solomon and her colleagues at the former NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory wanted to know why. To solve the mystery, Solomon led two U.S. scientific expeditions to the frozen continent in 1986 and 1987. Her teams' observations supported her theory that chemical reactions of chlorine and icy clouds in the cold, polar stratosphere could be responsible for ozone losses during the Antarctic springtime. Through her career, Dr. Solomon received many distinguished awards for her work, including the 1999 National Medal of Science, the highest scientific award given by the U.S. government. She also shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 as a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



Dr. Nancy Foster

Dr. Nancy Foster dedicated 23 years of outstanding service to NOAA, leaving a remarkable imprint on the agency. She is known for her mentorship - particularly of women in science - and as a champion of diversity.

She began her NOAA career in 1977, first with the Office of Research and Development, followed by nine years leading the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the National Estuarine Research Reserve Program. Much of the success of the sanctuary program is attributable to her tenure in its early years and through her long-term support and advocacy. From 1986 to 1993, she was director of the NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources. She also created the NOAA Habitat Restoration Center and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office. She was a key player in developing the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Act, which established the Marine Mammal Stranding Network. Dr. Foster helped lead NOAA Fisheries until 1997, where she helped to create a more efficient, responsive, and scientifically rigorous agency.

