

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 35

Urging the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 1997

Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself and Mr. D'AMATO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York.

Whereas 1998 marks the 150th anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention, which was held at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19 and 20, 1848;

Whereas the Women's Rights Convention was called to consider "the Social, Civil, and Religious Condition of Women";

Whereas the Women's Rights Convention is considered by many historians to be one of the most important events

in the history of the women's movement in the United States;

Whereas the Convention participants issued a Declaration of Sentiments which was modeled after the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas the Declaration of Sentiments further included a list of the "injustices" that were imposed on women over the centuries, such as denying them the right to participate in government, to retain their civil rights after marriage, to own property, to keep their wages, to vote, and to pursue a college education;

Whereas the Women's Rights Convention and the Declaration of Sentiments was a vital early step toward reversing such injustices;

Whereas the participants in the Women's Rights Convention also played a prominent role in the movement to abolish slavery;

Whereas commemorating this historic anniversary will highlight the importance of continuing the struggle for equal rights and opportunity for women in such areas as health care, education, employment, and pay equity;

Whereas Congress recently honored Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the organizers of the Women's Rights Convention, along with Susan B. Anthony, as revolutionary leaders of the women's movement by placing a statue of them in the Capitol Rotunda with statues of other revolutionary leaders of our Nation's history such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas a portion of this statue purposefully was left unfinished in 1921, the year following passage of the 19th

Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, to signify the need to continue working for an Equal Rights Amendment, pay and pension equity, and other women's rights;

Whereas, in light of the fact that commemorative stamps have recently been issued to honor the marathon, the lunar new year, and football coaches, honoring a historic convention that led to many breakthroughs in the history of the women's rights movement is highly appropriate;

Whereas honoring the first Women's Rights Convention is educational, historically important, and of widespread national appeal;

Whereas stamp issuance and stamp collecting teach children about our Nation's history and our Nation's culture; and

Whereas in the history of the struggle for equality, the significance of this event is immeasurable: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) a postage stamp should be issued to com-
4 memorate the 150th anniversary of the first Wom-
5 en's Rights Convention; and

6 (2) the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of
7 the United States Postal Service should recommend
8 to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be is-
9 sued.

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