

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month! This is a time to celebrate the contributions and achievements of women throughout history. Across the nation, women have shaped society in countless ways, from advancing civil rights to breaking barriers in science, politics, and business. Here in Missouri, many remarkable women have left lasting legacies that continue to inspire future generations.

Notable Women From Missouri:

- Maya Angelou (1928-2014) – Born in St. Louis, Maya Angelou was a poet, author, and civil rights activist. Her memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* became a groundbreaking work in American literature, shedding light on racism and identity.
- Susan Elizabeth Blow (1843-1916) – A pioneer in early childhood education, Blow founded the first public kindergarten in the United States in St. Louis in 1873, revolutionizing the way young children were taught.
- Jean Carnahan (born 1933) – The first woman to represent Missouri in the U.S. Senate, Carnahan took office in 2001, paving the way for more women in political leadership.
- Virginia Minor (1824-1894) – A suffragist from St. Louis, minor was a key figure in the fight for women's voting rights. She even attempted to register to vote in 1872, leading to a legal case that made national headlines

Women's history month reminds us that progress is built on the courage and determination of those who came before us. The women of not only Missouri, but the United States, both past and present, have made invaluable contributions to education, civil rights, politics, and the arts. As we celebrate this month, let's reflect on the strides women have made and commit to supporting the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

