



Proclamation



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, on February 28, 1980, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed March 2 - 8, 1980, as "National Women's History Week;" this being followed in 1981 by a Joint Congressional Resolution designating the week of March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week," which recurred every year in March until the adoption, in 1987, of Public Law 100-9, designating March as "Women's History Month;" and

WHEREAS, according to data provided by the United States Census Bureau, Carrboro, North Carolina, in 2017 was home to 11,409 female residents, accounting for 54.1% of the population; and

WHEREAS, since the town's founding, women have played significant roles in Carrboro's economic, cultural, and political development; and

WHEREAS, women and girls known as "Toppers" or "Loopers" were essential to the fabric industry of the town during its early years, with some women installing looping machines in their homes allowing them to support the production of clothing while also tending to domestic responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth "Libba" Cotten was born on January 5, 1893, in what would become Carrboro, and rose to be a talented, internationally-renowned musician whose songs have been performed by legendary artists such as Joan Baez, Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Ruth West was the first woman elected as Mayor of Carrboro; and

WHEREAS, recent cultural and social events have highlighted the continued struggles for women to achieve equality and respect in the workplace, and to contend with on-going incivility and degradation that has been made public thanks to the "Me Too" movement; and

WHEREAS, this year marks exactly 100 years since the right to vote for women (the 19th Amendment) was passed by both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate; in 1920, following ratification of the amendment by the state of Tennessee, it became the law of the land; and

WHEREAS, the empowerment of women has gained momentum in recent years as evidenced by the record number of women elected during the 2018 mid-terms, and by renewed efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro is proud to recognize and honor the history and contributions of women in Carrboro and throughout the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2019 to be **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**. I encourage all residents in our community to celebrate this important observance, learn more about the important achievements of women throughout history, and to continue the work of these women, for, in the words of well-known suffragist Susan B. Anthony, "there is so much yet to be done."

This the 5th day of March, 2019

Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor