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By:  Reynolds H.R. No. 1333

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The observance of Women's History Month in March 2021 provides an opportunity to celebrate the enormous contributions women have made to our society; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, the event began as a weeklong program in Santa Rosa, California, sponsored by the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women; the organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day; activities included an essay contest, presentations at dozens of schools, and a downtown parade; and

WHEREAS, Other communities across the country were inspired to launch their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year; in 1980, the National Women's History Alliance led a consortium of women's groups and historians in advocating for national recognition, and that February, President Jimmy Carter issued a proclamation declaring the week of March 8 to be National Women's History Week; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, at the behest of the National Women's History Alliance, Congress expanded the observance to the entire month; the alliance selects the theme each year, and for 2021, it has chosen "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced" to honor "the important roles of multicultural suffragists and voting rights activists"; and

WHEREAS, Many historians in Texas have dedicated their efforts to discovering and recognizing the legacy of women in the Lone Star State and exploring what it means to be a Texas woman; in 1991 Governor Ann Richards supported this endeavor by issuing the first gubernatorial proclamation in the state's history to declare March Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, Women have played a vital role in the development of Texas and the United States, and National Women's History Month provides an opportunity to acknowledge achievements that have too often gone unsung; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 2021 as National Women's History Month.