

PROCLAMATION

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

WHEREAS, AMERICAN WOMEN OF EVERY RACE, CLASS, AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND HAVE MADE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GROWTH AND STRENGTH OF OUR NATION IN COUNTLESS RECORDED AND UNRECORDED WAYS INCLUDING RED BANK'S OWN KATHARINE ELKUS WHITE WHO SERVED AS ITS MAYOR FROM 1951 TO 1956, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (1955-1964), AND UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK (1964-1968) AND EMMA VERNELL, A MEMBER OF THE WESTSIDE HOSE COMPANY OF THE RED BANK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WHO JOINED IN 1926 AFTER THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND AND THE LATER RECEIVED HER FIREMAN'S EXEMPTION PAPERS IN 1936 MAKING HER THE FIRST RECOGNIZED FEMALE FIREFIGHTER OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY; AND

WHEREAS, AMERICAN WOMEN HAVE PLAYED AND CONTINUE TO PLAY A CRITICAL ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND SOCIAL ROLE IN EVERY SPHERE OF THE LIFE OF THE NATION BY CONSTITUTING A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE LABOR FORCE WORKING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE HOME; AND

WHEREAS, AMERICAN WOMEN HAVE PLAYED A UNIQUE ROLE THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE NATION BY PROVIDING THE MAJORITY OF THE VOLUNTEER LABOR FORCE OF THE NATION; AND

WHEREAS, AMERICAN WOMEN WERE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLY CHARITABLE, PHILANTHROPIC, AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN OUR NATION; AND

WHEREAS, AMERICAN WOMEN OF EVERY RACE, CLASS, AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND SERVED AS EARLY LEADERS IN THE FOREFRONT OF EVERY MAJOR PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL CHANGE MOVEMENT; AND

WHEREAS, AMERICAN WOMEN HAVE BEEN LEADERS, NOT ONLY IN SECURING THEIR OWN RIGHTS OF SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (SUCH AS SUSAN B. ANTHONY AND ELIZABETH CADY STANTON), BUT ALSO IN THE ABOLITIONIST AND EMANCIPATION MOVEMENTS (SUCH AS SOJOURNER TRUTH AND HARRIET TUBMAN), THE INDUSTRIAL LABOR MOVEMENT (SUCH AS MARY HARRIS "MOTHER" JONES AND FRANCES PERKINS), THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (SUCH AS CORETTA KING AND ROSA PARKS), THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT (SUCH AS MARGARET SANGER, BETTY FRIEDAN AND GLORIA STEINEM), AND OTHER MOVEMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE PEACE MOVEMENT (SUCH AS JANE ADDAMS AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT), WHICH CREATE A MORE FAIR AND JUST SOCIETY FOR ALL; AND

WHEREAS, DESPITE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS, THE ROLE OF AMERICAN WOMEN IN HISTORY HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY OVERLOOKED AND UNDervalued, IN THE LITERATURE, TEACHING AND STUDY OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PASQUALE MENNA, MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK DO HEREBY RECOGNIZE, HONOR AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THE AMAZING ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMERICAN WOMEN THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY WHICH HAVE SHAPED, ENRICHED, AND ENLIGHTENED OUR SOCIETY AND HEREBY ENTHUSIASTICALLY PROCLAIM MARCH 2020 AS "WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH."

PASQUALE MENNA, MAYOR