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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

commemorating 100 years of women's right to vote

The Commission is comprised of 14 women of diverse economic, professional and cultural backgrounds: Susan Combs, Colleen Shogan, Debra Wall, Julissa Marenco, Kay Coles James, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Jovita Carranza, Penny Nance, Heather Higgins, Nicola Miner, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Cleta Mitchell, Marjorie Dannenfelser, and Karen Hill.

Ten members were appointed by elected representatives: James and Carranza were appointed by the President, Nance and Higgins by Speaker Paul Ryan, Miner and Newsom by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Mitchell and Dannenfelser by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Mikulski and Hill by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Additionally, four women were appointed from within other federal government agencies: Shogan from the Library of Congress, Wall by the U.S. Archives, Marenco by the Smithsonian Institution and Combs by the National Park Service.



FROM BOTTOM LEFT: COLLEEN SHOGAN, REBECCA KLEEFISCH (FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR), NICOLA MINER, KAY COLES JAMES, MARJORIE DANNENFELSER, JOVITA CARRANZA, DEBRA WALL, JULISSA MARENCO, HEATHER HIGGINS, SUSAN COMBS, CLETA MITCHELL, KAREN HILL (NOT PICTURED: SEN. BARBARA MIKULSKI, PENNY NANCE, AND JENNIFER SIEBEL NEWSOM)



Susan Combs is the former Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget for the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she worked on policy development and management reforms to align efforts among the bureaus and stewardship of Interior's fiscal resources. Combs previously served in two elective Texas statewide offices. First, as the state's first female Agriculture Commissioner and then as the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and Treasurer. That position serves as the chief financial officer for the state. Combs is also a small business owner and operates a ranch in Texas.



Colleen Shogan is the Senior Vice President of the White House Historical Association and Director of the David Rubenstein Center for White House History. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Government at Georgetown University. Shogan represents the Library of Congress on the Commission, where she previously served as the Assistant Deputy Librarian at the Library of Congress and the Deputy Director of the Congressional Research Service. A political scientist, Shogan is the past president of the National Capital Area Political Science Association and a former council member of the American Political Science Association.



Debra Steidel Wall became Deputy Archivist of the United States in July 2011. She previously served as the agency's Chief of Staff (2008-2011), and in a variety of management positions relating to bringing NARA's archival holdings to the public online. She joined the National Archives in 1991 as an archivist trainee with a specialty in film, and holds an undergraduate degree in history and government from Georgetown University, and a graduate degree in film from the American University.



Julissa Marengo serves as the Smithsonian's Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs, where she oversees the Institution's Offices of Public Affairs, Government Relations, Visitor Services and Special Events and Protocol. Marengo previously served as the Chief External Affairs Officer and Senior Advisor at the Federal Communications Commission. She was also the President of ZGS Communication Station Group, where she oversaw the management and direction of numerous television and radio stations, and a White House Fellow in the Environmental Protection Agency.



Marjorie Dannenfelser is President and an original organizer of Susan B. Anthony List, a national pro-life organization which seeks to elect pro-life leaders and advance lifesaving laws and policy. Dannenfelser, who had worked for Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, built and grew the Susan B. Anthony List with the goal of increasing the number of pro-life women in federal and statewide office. Since then, SBA List has helped elect more than 111 candidates – women and men – to the U.S. House, 20 to the U.S. Senate, and 23 to other statewide offices across the country.



Kay Coles James, President of the Heritage Foundation, has an extensive background in crafting public policy and leading in nearly every sector of America's economy. She has worked at the local, state, and federal levels of government under the administrations of former U.S. President George H. W. Bush, former Virginia Governor George Allen (1994-1996), and former U.S. President George W. Bush (2001- 2005). She has also served dozens of organizations in the corporate, and nonprofit arenas.



Senator Barbara Mikulski was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986 and became the second woman in the nation's history to serve in both chambers of Congress. Senator Mikulski championed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, helped establish the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health, worked to expand access to higher education and protect the financial resources of the nation's seniors, and supported investments in research and innovation, including the Hubble Space Telescope. In 2011 Mikulski became the longest-serving female senator and the following year, the longest-serving woman in Congress. She was also the first woman to chair the Senate Committee on Appropriations.



Jovita Carranza, serves as the 26th Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). As a member of President Trump's Cabinet, she advocates on behalf of the 30 million small businesses in America. In her role as Administrator, she leads a team of professionals dedicated to ensuring entrepreneurs located across America have the support and resources they need to start, grow, and expand their small businesses, and recover in the event of a declared disaster. Administrator Carranza earned her MBA from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida and received executive, governance, management, and financial training at the INSEAD Business School in Paris, France; Michigan State University; and the University of Chicago.



Penny Nance, CEO and President of Concerned Women for America (CWA), is a recognized national authority on cultural, children's, and women's issues. As the CEO and President of the nation's largest public policy women's organization, Nance oversees more than 500,000 participating CWA members across the country, over 400 Prayer/Action Chapters and Home teams, 40 Young Women for America (YWA) Chapters, and 600 trained leaders, and is also the president of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC), serving as the principal spokesperson for both entities.



Heather Higgins, President and CEO of Independent Women's Voice, serves as chairman of the Independent Women's Forum and as Vice Chairman of the Philanthropy Roundtable. She is also on the NY board of UBS's mutual funds, a trustee of the Committee for Economic Development and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Previously, Higgins was a Portfolio Manager and Vice President at U.S. Trust. She was also an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal and Assistant Editor at the Public Interest magazine. She continues to write opinion editorials.



Jennifer Siebel Newsom is a documentary filmmaker, actress and public speaker. The First Partner of California, Newsom wrote and produced Miss Representation, a documentary that examines how the media has underrepresented women in positions of power. She is also the co-founder of The Representation Project, an organization that works to end gender stereotypes.



Nicola Miner is an Assistant Professor of English at the College of San Mateo in California. An active philanthropist and advocate of the environmental movement, Miner was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees at Earthjustice, a nonprofit environmental law organization. She also serves as the President of the Miner Anderson Family Foundation. She previously served as Director of the Presidio Trust and on several boards, including The San Francisco Ballet and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



Cleta Mitchell is a partner and political law attorney in the Washington, D.C. office of Foley & Lardner LLP. With more than 40 years of experience in law, politics and public policy, Mitchell advises nonprofit and issue organizations, corporations, candidates, campaigns, and individuals on state and federal campaign finance law, election law, and compliance issues related to lobbying, ethics and financial disclosure. Mitchell practices before the Federal Election Commission, the ethics committees of the U.S. House and Senate, and similar state and local enforcement bodies and agencies.



Karen Hill is the President and CEO of the Harriet Tubman Home – a National Historical Park established to manage and operate the homestead of Harriet Tubman. In her role at the Tubman Home, Hill shares Tubman's core values with visitors that tour the property. She was also influential in establishing Tubman's home as a National Historic Park.