



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY—AUGUST 26

- ▶ **AUGUST 26** of each year is designated in the United States as Women's Equality Day. Instituted by Rep. Bella Abzug and first established in 1971, the date commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave U.S. women full voting rights in 1920.



Bella Abzug, U.S. Congressman (1971-1976), lawyer writer and news commentator.

"If we get a government that reflects more of what this country is really about, we can turn the century -- and the economy -- around."

About Bella Abzug:

Bella Abzug, a 1947 Columbia Law School graduate admitted to the NY Bar in 1947, was known for her work in the peace movement, for civil liberties, and later in feminism.

In 1970, Bella Abzug was elected to the U.S. Congress from New York. In Congress, she was especially noted for her work for the Equal Rights Amendment, national day care centers, ending sex discrimination, and working mothers' priorities.

Bella Abzug also worked against American involvement in the Vietnam War and against the Selective Service System. She challenged the seniority system, ending up as Chair of the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights.

Bella Abzug ran for the Senate in 1976, losing to Daniel P. Moynihan, and in 1977 was defeated in a primary bid for the Office of Mayor of New York City. In 1978, she again ran for Congress, in a special election.

In 1977-1978 Bella Abzug served as Co-Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Women. She was fired by President Jimmy Carter, who had originally appointed her, when the Committee openly criticized Carter's budget for cutting women's programs.

Bella Abzug returned to private practice as a lawyer until 1980, and served for a time as a television news commentator and magazine columnist.

Source: Jone Johnson Lewis, About.com

