Proclamation

Whereas, the annual observance of Women's History Month in March provides an opportunity to celebrate outstanding women of New York State from the past and present, all of whom inspire us through their strength, determination, and achievements; and

Whereas, New York was an early leader in the Women's Equal Rights movement and the struggle for gender equality and justice in the workplace; formed in 1825 by Lavinia Wright and Louise Mitchell, the United Tailoresses of New York was the first women-only labor union in the nation, with its members going on strike in 1831 to demand a "just price" for their labor; other milestone events, such as the 1909 uprising of 20,000 women workers in New York shirtwaist factories, led to improved wages, working conditions, and hours for women; and

Whereas, those pioneers of the women's labor movement helped forge a path for the careers of other New York State women—including Dr. Mary Edward Walker, Kate Mullaney, and Frances Perkins—who broke through glass ceilings in their professions, achieving not only success, but distinction, in their respective fields; from the visionary organizers of the first Women's Rights Convention held in 1848, in Seneca Falls, to the women who today thrive in every vocation and endeavor; and

Whereas, New York continues to serve as a model for equality and fairness on women's rights issues, advancing initiatives to eliminate barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequality based on gender; and

Whereas, Women's History Month provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge the trailblazers from the past, and to celebrate those who today build upon the legacy of women throughout history, by pursuing new courses of progress and forging paths of opportunity for future generations of women;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2013 as

Women's History Month

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this seventh day of March in the year two thousand thirteen.

[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor