1996—Madeleine Albright becomes the first woman appointed to serve as Secretary of State

1916—Jeanette Rankin is elected as the first female member of Congress

July, 1848—The Seneca Falls Convention, the first US women’s rights convention held in New York. Signifies the beginning of the Women’s rights movement

1933 – Frances Perkins becomes the first female cabinet member, appointed secretary of labor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

September, 1981—Sandra Day O’Connor is sworn in as the first female Supreme Court Justice

January, 2007—Nancy Pelosi becomes the first female Speaker of the US House of Representative

1981--In a break with tradition, Lady Diana Spencer deletes the vow to "obey" her husband as she marries Prince Charles.

1978 – The Pregnancy Discrimination Act bans employment discrimination against pregnant women.

July, 1984—Geraldine Ferraro chosen as Walter Mondale’s VP running mate in the 1984 presidential election

1978—Pregnancy Discrimination Act passed, women could no longer be fired from their workplace for being pregnant.

1977—The first time that a court recognized sexual harassment in the workplace

1980—Sexual harassment was officially defined by the [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](http://www.eeoc.gov/).

1972—First woman allowed to run in the Boston Marathon

1973—Roe v. Wade—women’s right to an abortion

1974—women were not able to apply for a credit card alone. Most likely it had to be cosigned by her father or husband

1973—women could now serve on juries in all 50 states

1977—first woman admitted to Harvard

2013—Women allowed to serve on the front lines in combat positions during war

1983—Sally Ride becomes the first female astronaut sent into space

1971—*Reed v. Reed*: sex discrimination unconstitutional in deciding court decisions, a violation of the 14th amendment

1965: *Griswold v. Connecticut*: overturned laws that restricted unmarried persons’ access to contraception

1974—The Fair Housing Act of 1968 was amended to prohibit discrimination based on sex along with race, color, religion and national origin

1975—*Taylor v. Louisiana*: Supreme Court decision declaring the denial of women serving on a jury is unconstitutional

1976—In *Planned Parenthood v. Danforth*, the Supreme Court struck down a requirement for written spousal consent before a woman could obtain an abortion

1979 – Women’s Equal Rights Amendment failed to pass ☹

2015—13 states still make some exceptions for marital rape

1992—Planned Parenthood v. Casey—you don’t need permission from your spouse to get an abortion