

## August 25 2005 - Tribute to Woman Suffrage Movement to Take Place in Capitol on Women's Equality Day

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Remembering Our Foremothers Delegation to Lead Ceremony Honoring

Women's Right to Vote

Washington, DC - This Friday, in a ceremony honoring the leaders of America's Woman Suffrage Movement, the Remembering Our Foremothers Delegation and members of the staff of Rep. Louise M. Slaughter will place a wreath at the foot of the Woman Suffrage Monument in the Capitol Rotunda. The event will take place on Women's Equality Day, and will celebrate the 85th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. The ceremony will feature former leaders of the Move the Statue Campaign, the organization which succeeded in getting the Monument placed in the Rotunda in 1997, and will also include many individuals who are currently engaged in activities that encourage women to vote and ensure women's equality in our society.

"I'm very proud to have been a part of the Move the Statue Campaign," Rep. Slaughter said. "I wouldn't be here today were it not for the leaders of our nation's suffragist movement. This beautiful event is a fitting testament to their courage, commitment, and to the tremendous contribution they made to American society," she added.

Caroline Sparks, the leader of the Remembering Our Foremothers Delegation, was greatly enthusiastic about the day's events. "I worked for 12 years to move the suffrage monument from the basement of the Capitol to the Rotunda because it is important for women and men to view the leaders who secured voting rights for 51% of the U.S. population," she said. "Until the suffrage monument was moved, no women were among the liberators represented in the Rotunda. It's not nice to put your forefathers in the living room and your foremothers in the basement," she added.

Jackie Gentry, another member of the Delegation, was also focused on the importance of the Monument. "Besides being a visible symbol of the courageous woman who led the suffrage movement, the monument reminds all women and girls

that they can participate fully in the electoral process in this country," she said.

The proceedings will commence at 10:00 A.M.

Below is list of the members of the day's leading participants:

1) Caroline H. Sparks            Delegation leader and former Co-Chair of the Move the Statue Campaign

and the 75th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage Celebration

2) Amy Conroy                 Executive Director of the National Woman's Party

3) Jacquelyn H. Gentry Move the Statue Campaign and past President of the Prince

Georges County Commission for Women

4) Deborah Horan             Chairperson, Montgomery County MD Commission for Women

5) Gwen Keita                 Director, Women's Programs of the American Psychological Association

- 6) Afifa Klouj                      Move the Statue Campaign
  
- 7) Amy Mulry                      National Council of Women's Organizations
  
- 7) Julia Silva                      Past Chairperson, Montgomery County MD Commission for Women
  
- 8) Faye Seifert                    Move the Statue Campaign
  
- 9) Lidia Green                    Bradlee Florist
  
- 10) Amelia Green                Bradlee Florist

## Background

The "Portrait Monument" depicts Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, three leaders of the suffragist movement. For more than 70 years, the monument sat in the crypt of the Capitol. In 1997, a resolution in Congress was passed to move the statue to a more prominent spot in the Rotunda. This act was passed with the urging of many women's groups. Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter spoke at one of the events celebrating this move.