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## *House of Representatives*

### VISCLOSKY CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**Mr. Speaker:** It is with great respect and admiration that I rise today in observation of Women's History Month and its 2015 theme, *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*. Each year, the National Women's History Project selects a unifying theme to recognize and promote Women's History Month. This year's theme recounts the individual and collective narratives that have been woven into the history of our nation and celebrates the important economic, cultural, political, and social contributions women have made to our history and their continued impact on our future. This year also marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Women's History Project.

Women have played a crucial and unique role throughout America's history by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force in the country. American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have served as early leaders in every major progressive social change movement including the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and the peace movement. These remarkable women were leaders and organizers who not only secured their own rights and access to equal opportunity, but also served as a voice for many disenfranchised and undervalued populations.

Throughout our nation's history, there are many fine examples of women who have worked diligently to uncover these stories and have succeeded in writing women into the pages of our nation's history. Strong role models such as Delilah L. Beasley, the first African American woman to be regularly published in a major metropolitan newspaper, and Eleanor Flexner, whose groundbreaking 1959 book, *Century of Struggle: The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States*, brought to light the adversity overcome in the workplace and the voting booth. These women pioneered the way for other great journalists, historians, educators, and anthropologists such as Lynn Sherr, a broadcast journalist and author who advocated for women's equal access to healthcare and social change both on screen and in print. Because of these courageous trailblazers, women today are empowered to share their stories of achievements, leadership, courage, and strength, and to speak out against injustice, prejudice, and inequality.

These revolutionary women have retold their own personal tales of struggles and successes, as well as the tribulations and triumphs of other women. These accounts of the lives of individual women are pivotal because they not only acknowledge strong female role models who share an unlimited vision of what a woman can accomplish, but they also challenge stereotypes and social assumptions about who women are and what women can achieve today. Numerous female scholars, authors, and social activists, both past and present, serve as outstanding examples who reflect the 2015 theme, *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join in celebrating Women's History Month and to recognize that after decades of dedication, perseverance, contributions, and advances, the stories of American women from all cultures and classes are being printed, spoken, recognized, and celebrated. In an effort to illustrate the many courageous and dedicated women throughout America's history, we remember and recount the tales of our ancestors' talents, sacrifices, and commitments that serve as an inspiration to today's generation of both women and men. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the many ways that women's history has become woven into the fabric of our national story.