

Preserving

- the suffragist's enduring fight for freedom

BY U.S. SENATOR MARSHA BLACKBURN

One hundred years ago this month, suffragists from all across the country gathered in Nashville to make their final stand. After 72 years of mockery, rampant incarceration, and brutality at the hands of their own government, the women carrying the torch ignited by luminaries like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony prepared themselves for a showdown.

They fought together as women, but more importantly, they came together as Americans who took the words of our Founding Fathers to heart. They rightfully believed that all men and women are created equal, and that our rights come from our Creator, and our Creator alone.

The suffragists held the founders to their promise of equality, and finally, on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th and final state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment. It was a well-earned victory in a battle they never should have had to fight.

As the first woman senator from this great state, I feel a deep and abiding connection to Ida B. Wells, Anne Dallas Dudley, and the rest of the Tennessee suffragists. Many of those fearless women spent their entire adult lives convincing legislators, wealthy influencers, and even their own husbands and sons of the worth of a woman's voice.

Today, we honor the suffragists' legacy by taking their words to heart and remembering, as Susan B. Anthony once said that "[it] was we, the people... the whole people, who formed the union.

And we formed it, not to give the blessings of liberty, but to secure them... to the whole people, women as well as men."

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, I hope all Tennesseans will find

inspiration in those words. No matter our current struggle, America by its very nature stands united, imbued with the same hope that inspired thousands of women to fight for a seat at the table so many years ago.



Tennessee Governor A.H. Roberts signs the certificate of ratification.

Join us in Honoring the Ratification of the 19th Amendment giving Women the Right to Vote.

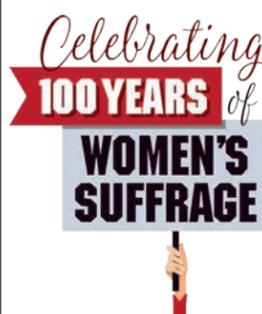
August 18, 1920



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45 years in Humboldt
"People Finding a Better Way"

We celebrate the women who fought 72 years for suffrage.

Their determination & persistence inspires us.



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