May Highlights in US Women's History

May 1, 1950

May 5, 1938
Dr. Dorothy H. Andersen presents results of her medical research identifying the disease cystic fibrosis at a meeting of the American Pediatric Association.

May 6 - 12
Nurses Week

May 8, 1914
President Woodrow Wilson signs a Proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day.

May 10, 1872
Victoria Woodhull is nominated as the first woman candidate for U.S. president for the Equal Rights Party.

May 12, 1968
A 12-block Mother’s Day march of “welfare mothers” is held in Washington, D.C., led by Coretta Scott King accompanied by Ethel Kennedy.

May 21, 1932
Amelia Earhart Putnam becomes the first woman to complete a solo-transatlantic flight by flying 2,026 miles from Newfoundland to Ireland in just under 15 hours.

May 21, 1973
Lynn Genesko, a swimmer, receives the first athletic scholarship awarded to a woman (University of Miami).

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May 29, 1914
Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman to qualify for and complete the Indy 500 car race.

May 29, 1943
“Rosie the Riveter” by Norman Rockwell appears on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post.

May Birthdays

May 1, 1830 (1930)
Mary Harris “Mother” Jones, labor leader and organizer.

May 3, 1894 (1989)
Phyllis Greenacre, psychoanalyst, interest in physical maturation and psychological development in children led to study of gifted infants, wrote “Swift and Carroll” (1955), a biographical study in applied analysis.

May 3, 1898 (1987)
Septima Clark, educator, civil rights activist, called “The Grandmother of the Civil Rights Movement.”

May 5, 1864 (1922)
Elizabeth Seaman, pen name “Nellie Bly,” investigative journalist, wrote expose of mental asylum (1887), set a record for circling the world in 72 days (1890).

May 5, 1942 (1998)
Tammy Wynette, country music singer, after first success in 1967 had more than 20 songs go to #1, Grammy Award for “Stand By Your Man” (1968).

May 8, 1910 (1981)
Mary Lou Williams, jazz composer, became piano chair and writer for Benny Goodman (1931), wrote “The Zodiac Suite” for jazz ensemble, played it at New York’s Town Hall (1945).

May 9, 1806 (1994)
Sarah Boyle, Virginia writer, supported immediate integration in 1962 with “The Desegregated Heart,” was arrested and jailed in St. Augustine (1964), railed against age discrimination in the 1970s and 80s.

May 9, 1906 (1975)
Ethel Weed, military officer in the Women’s Army Corp., promoted women’s rights and suffrage in Japan.

May 9, 1917 (2013)
Fay Kanin, screenwriter, nominated for Academy Award for “Teacher’s Pet” (1958), won two Emmy Awards for “Tell Me Where It Hurts” (1974) and for producing “Friendly Fire” with Carol Burnett (1979), second female president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (1979).

May 10, 1897 (1985)
Margaret Mahler, psychoanalyst, developed the separation individuation theory of child development and the Tripartite Treatment Model in which the mother participates in the treatment of the child.

May 11, 1875 (1912)
Harriet Quimby, first American woman to become a licensed airplane pilot (1911), first woman to fly across the English Channel (1912).

May 11, 1894 (1991)
Martha Graham, modern dance innovator and choreographer, first dancer to perform at the White House.

May 11, 1906 (1975)
Ethel Weed, military officer in the Women’s Army Corp., promoted women’s rights and suffrage in Japan.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 12, 1907 (2003)</td>
<td>Katharine Hepburn, actor, performed for more than 60 years, won four Academy Awards for best actress including &quot;The Philadelphia Story&quot; and &quot;On Golden Pond,&quot; named top American screen legend of all time by American Film Institute (1999)</td>
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<td>May 14, 1890 (1983)</td>
<td>Margaret Naumburg, progressive educator, founded the Walden School in New York, early pioneer of art therapy, developed Dynamically Oriented Art Therapy</td>
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<td>May 15, 1937</td>
<td>Madelaine Albright, first woman U.S. Secretary of State (1997-2001)</td>
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<td>May 19, 1930 (1965)</td>
<td>Lorraine Hansberry, first African American woman to produce a play on Broadway, &quot;A Raisin in the Sun&quot; (1959)</td>
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<td>May 20, 1930 (1965)</td>
<td>Lyndia Cabrera, Cuban artist, created a legacy of preserving Afro-Cuban culture, beliefs, rituals, songs, stories, and language</td>
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<td>May 24, 1898 (1986)</td>
<td>Helen Taussig, pediatric cardiologist, first woman full professor at Johns Hopkins (1959), helped create the Blalock-Taussig shunt, a surgical technique which corrected &quot;blue baby&quot; syndrome, contributed to the ban on thalidomide in the 1960s, first female president of the American Heart Association (1965), awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom</td>
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<td>May 25, 1905 (1995)</td>
<td>Dorothy Wesley, librarian and historian, one of the first African-American women to earn a master's degree in library science (Howard University, 1932), as curator of the Moorland Spingarn Collection at Howard University, she helped it become a world renowned resource on the history and culture of African Americans</td>
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<td>May 25, 1910 (1997)</td>
<td>Mary Keyserling, economist, Director of the Women’s Bureau of the Labor Department (1964-1969), Executive Director of the National Consumers’ League (1938), and personal advisor to Eleanor Roosevelt in the Office of Civilian Defense</td>
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<td>May 25, 1928</td>
<td>Mary Wells Lawrence, first woman executive of an advertising firm, first female CEO of a company traded on the New York Stock Exchange, named Advertising Woman of the Year (1971)</td>
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<td>May 26, 1916 (1976)</td>
<td>Helen Kanahele, labor organizer in Hawaii, worked with the Women’s Auxiliary of the International Longshoreman's and Warehousemen’s Union (1949-51) and the United Public Workers union, subpoenaed before the Territorial Committee on Subversive Activities in the 1950’s because of her labor organizing and opposition to the death penalty</td>
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<td>May 26, 1924 (1977)</td>
<td>Thelma Hill, dancer, choreographer, educator, co-founder of the New York Negro Ballet Company (1954), one of the founders of the dance troupe that became the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, after an injury focused on teaching dance</td>
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<td>May 26, 1951 (2012)</td>
<td>Sally Ride, astrophysicist, first American woman astronaut</td>
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<td>May 27, 1907 (1964)</td>
<td>Rachel Carson, scientist and environmentalist, wrote &quot;The Silent Spring&quot; which became a cornerstone of the modern environmental protection movement</td>
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<td>May 28, 1913 (1989)</td>
<td>May Swenson, poet, first published in 1954, wrote 11 volumes of poetry (plus four published posthumously), showed a great love of the outdoors and nature, writer</td>
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<td>May 28, 1922 (1999)</td>
<td>Lucille Kallen, television comedy writer, novelist, wrote humorous skits with Mel Tolkin for Imogene Coca and Sid Caesar (1950-54), also wrote for Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Dick Van Dyke, wrote mysteries in her late 70's</td>
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<td>May 30 or 31, 1910 (1989)</td>
<td>Maria Teresa Babin, Puerto Rican writer, poet, literary critic, and educator, taught in U.S. schools and universities as well as in Puerto Rico</td>
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<td>May 31, 1924 (1985)</td>
<td>Patricia Harris, lawyer and ambassador, first African American woman to: hold a Cabinet position, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (1979-83), serve as an Ambassador (Luxembourg, 1965), and head a law school (Howard University, 1969)</td>
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