



Proclamation

WHEREAS, August 18, 2020, is the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment and August 26, 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the amendment becoming part of the United States Constitution, enshrining the right to vote for women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the month of August has been designated as National Women's Suffrage Month by the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, tens of millions of women vote in American elections each year, supporting the very foundation of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, in 1917 suffragists organized protests outside the White House in support women's suffrage, and in November of 1917 thirty-three (33) of those suffragists, known as "Silent Sentinels," were imprisoned, beaten, tortured, force-fed and otherwise mistreated at the nearby Occoquan Workhouse, which was located on what is now the site of the Workhouse Arts Center and Fairfax Water; and

WHEREAS, this incident stoked worldwide outrage and played a critical role in the eventual passage of the 19th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the struggle for the right to vote in the United States continued for generations for African-American women and men and continues to this day for many around the world; and

WHEREAS, recognition of the sacrifices of those in the cause of suffrage continues to inspire those still involved in the struggle today;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Earnest W. Porta Jr., Mayor of the Town of Occoquan and on behalf of the Occoquan Town Council, hereby proclaim August 18, 2020, as

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DAY

in the Town of Occoquan and urge all individuals, groups, and businesses to join the Town in honoring the work of suffragists in enshrining the Constitutional right to vote for all women who are American citizens.

Adopted this 4th day of August 2020.

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., MAYOR
On behalf of the Town Council of
Occoquan, Virginia

ATTEST:

Katy Nicholson, Town Clerk