



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN  
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



## August 2022 Her Story ENewsletter Title IX "She-roes"

The year 2022 marks 50 years since the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX provided many advances including women's participation in a wide range of high school and college athletics. Many women – and men – worked to make Title IX a reality. Let's learn about some of these trailblazing women.



In 1960, at thirteen years old, swimmer **Donna de Varona** competed in her first Olympics. Four years later, she won two gold medals. Despite her swimming prowess, de Varona was unable to go to college on scholarship as no scholarships existed for female athletes. She thus became a strong advocate for Title IX. The first female television sportscaster, de Varona is one of the founders of the Women's Sports Foundation and served as its first President. She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Credited as the "Mother of Title IX" **Patsy Mink**, the first woman of color to serve in the U.S. Congress (from Hawaii, starting in 1965), played high school basketball on a half court, as at the time full-court basketball was deemed too physically demanding for girls. Mink wanted to pursue a career in medicine but was rejected by all medical schools to which she applied. She went instead to law school. After fighting for the right to take the bar exam, she became the first Japanese American woman to pass the bar in Hawaii. That was not the end of the barriers Mink faced. She was denied a job at a law firm because she was a married woman; also, she couldn't start a law practice because she had married a man who was not from Hawaii and the law was such that she was considered a non-resident. During her terms in Congress, Mink pursued legislative reform in education and health care. After her death, the U.S. House

of Representatives renamed Title IX the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Motivated by the financial hardships that had caused her to withdraw from college, Congresswoman **Edith Starrett Green** advocated for education throughout her twenty years in the U.S. Congress (1955-1974). Representing Oregon, Green was called "Mrs. Education" and the "Mother of Higher Education." She served on the Committee on Education and Labor for 18 years. Green's record in Congress demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the rights of women. She is credited as a driving force behind the enactment of Title IX. After she presided over seven days of hearings during which many witnesses described barriers facing women in higher education, Green said "Let us not deceive ourselves. Our educational institutions have proven to be no bastions of democracy."

The "Godmother of Title IX" **Bernice Sandler** was an advocate for women's rights for over fifty years. Denied a position after receiving her Ph.D. because "she came on too strong for a woman," Sandler partnered with Representative Edith Green in gathering the evidence through hearings and other mechanisms that documented the discrimination that women faced in employment and education. These efforts led to the passage of Title IX and her nickname as its Godmother. Dr. Sandler holds many firsts in the fight for gender equity. She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



There are more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us all. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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