



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



June 2023 Her Story ENewsletter Legacies

So far in 2023, we have lost three of the women featured in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*: Marianne Mantell, Patricia Schroeder, and Tina Turner. In this month's newsletter, we salute them and their legacies.



The co-founder (with Barbara Holdridge) of Caedmon Records, **Marianne Mantell** pioneered the audio book industry. Mantell and Holdridge, both Hunter College graduates with degrees in Greek, wanted to work in the conventional publishing business; instead, they started issuing recorded books read by famous poets and writers. Their early success was fueled by the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas. He was a night owl and heavy drinker; they called his room at 5 am, scheduled lunch and secured their recording session.

Their business relied on their creativity and resourcefulness in getting their subjects to be responsive and record. They wanted to memorialize "the great living authors, recording their own work in order to capture the author's own interpretation and recreation of the emotions felt when the work was first set down." When Holdridge and Mantell sold the label in 1970, they had been recording for 18 years and had released more than 500 recordings. Women writers were well represented and classical works including Shakespeare had been read. Audiobooks are a multibillion-dollar industry today.



During her twelve terms in Congress, **Patricia Schroeder** made an indelible mark on our times through her trailblazing leadership in the House of Representatives. She worked tirelessly to establish national family policy; she addressed issues like parental leave, childcare, family planning, and more. She was also a leader in foreign and military policy, serving on the House National Security Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. She also chaired the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families.

Schroeder, who earned a law degree from Harvard University, was first elected from Colorado in 1972 and continued to serve her constituency until she announced her retirement in late 1995. One of the few women in modern times to become a candidate for the Presidency, Schroeder was always an outspoken advocate for what she called "work and family issues," in recognition of the fact that issues concerning women inevitably impact all families. She wrote and introduced the now-enacted Family and Medical Leave Act in 1985 and was a primary advocate to enact legislation and secure funding for key legislation to support women's health research. One of the nation's most respected women, Patricia Schroeder was not only a sophisticated and successful legislator; she did not apologize for her feminism and her advocacy. As she expressed it to *The New York Times* in 1977, "I have a brain and a uterus, and I use both."

Tina Turner



Considered one of the 100 Greatest Singers of All Times and one of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time, **Tina Turner** began her entertainment career as a teenager. She was discovered by Ike Turner with whom she later endured a turbulent marriage. They recorded many successful hits together. She also had a successful solo career. At age 44, she was the oldest female artist to top the Billboard Hot 100. Referred to as the "Queen of

Rock and Roll," Turner sold more than 100 million records and received 12 Grammy Awards. She was the first Black artist and the first woman to grace the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine. She also acted in movies and movies have been made about her life story. Turner has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice – once as a solo artist and once with Ike Turner. She has received the Kennedy Center Honors.

Marianne Mantell, Patricia Schroeder and Tina Turner are among the 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. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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