



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



December 2023 Her Story ENewsletter A Stamp and a Book

In the Fall of 2023, multiple women profiled in *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America* were featured in the news. Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's face graced a U.S. postage stamp. A new book, *The Six*, highlighted the first six women astronauts and detailed the reasons why Sally Ride was chosen as the first woman to fly in space. Let's learn more.



Ruth Bader Ginsburg could not find employment as an attorney after she graduated from law school. She was tied for first in her law school class, having been a member of the *Harvard Law Review* and the *Columbia Law Review*, but she was a woman, a mother and Jewish. She entered Harvard Law School in 1956 but completed her law education at Columbia Law School after her husband was offered a job in New York City. She spent time in academia and worked to advance the cause of gender equity.

The first woman tenured at Columbia Law School, she later became the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) general counsel. Ginsburg co-founded the Women's Rights Project of the ACLU. She spent much of her law career advocating for gender equity and women's rights. Ginsburg won five of the six gender discrimination cases that she argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1993, President Bill Clinton nominated her as an Associate Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court and she was confirmed. Justice Ginsburg, aka Notorious RBG, has now been celebrated in film both through the documentary *RBG* and the feature film *On the Basis of Sex*. She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Sally Ride grew up in California and was a star tennis player. She attended Stanford University where she earned all three of her degrees. She, Judy Resnik, and Shannon Lucid were three of the first six women selected to train as astronauts in 1978. Ride's first flight was aboard the space shuttle *Challenger* in 1983. During that flight, Ride operated the robotic arm. The crew successfully launched satellites and performed the first successful satellite retrieval and deployment. Her second flight was in 1984, also aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*. She again successfully operated the robotic arm this time to remove ice from the shuttle's exterior and to adjust a radar antenna.

Later, she served on committees investigating the *Challenger* and *Columbia* shuttle tragedies, taught college physics and started Sally Ride Science, to encourage children, especially girls, to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers. She also wrote science-related books for children. Posthumously, she was featured on a US postage stamp and she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Both Sally Ride and Shannon Lucid have been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sally Ride, Judy Resnik, and Shannon Lucid 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 all. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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