



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



November 2025 Her Story ENewsletter Women on U.S. Postage Stamps

Not only have women been featured on a special series of U.S. quarters, women also continue to be featured on U.S. postage stamps. In 2025, former First Lady Barbara Bush and entertainer extraordinaire Betty White were featured. Several women were featured as part of the Underground Railroad series of stamps in 2024 including Harriet Tubman. Also featured in 2024 were Constance Baker Motley and Betty Ford, both of whom have been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Judge **Constance Baker Motley** was a woman of many firsts. Although she decided at age 15 that she wanted to be a lawyer, finances were an issue. After receiving an offer to have her college paid for her, she enrolled at Fisk University and then transferred to New York University from which she graduated. In 1946, when she graduated from Columbia Law School, she was only the second African American woman to have achieved that milestone.

Motley worked at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund with the famed Thurgood Marshall. She was the first African American woman to argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and she won nine out of ten of those cases between 1961 and 1963. The first woman to be elected to the New York State Senate (in 1964), she became the first woman to serve as Manhattan Borough President in 1965. In 1966, President Johnson appointed her to the U.S. District Court, the first African American woman to hold a federal judgeship.



In 1974, in an act that has saved and continues to save thousands of women's lives each year, First Lady **Betty Ford** spoke in public about her mastectomy and urged women to get a checkup for breast cancer. She explained that "maybe if I as First Lady could talk about it candidly and without embarrassment, many other people would be able to as well." She was equally frank about her successful battle against dependency on drugs and alcohol. She helped establish the Betty Ford Center for treatment of this problem in California and opened up public discourse for many as a result of her courageous actions.

A passionate advocate for women's rights, an assessment of Ford stated, "Only a part of Betty Ford's legacy will be that of her role as first lady. Throughout her post-Washington life, she established herself as one of the nation's first public advocates for women's self-examination, a prodigious fund-raiser for arthritis research, and, most important, a tireless campaigner for the rights and dignity of those afflicted with the disease of substance abuse. Her role as a public health advocate distinguishes her as one of the most influential women of the latter part of the twentieth century."

Constance Baker Motley and Betty Ford 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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