

Contact us at [pioneerhistories@veteranfeministsofamerica.org](mailto:pioneerhistories@veteranfeministsofamerica.org) if you need further information about how you can help capture these very important stories—or if you have information to share about existing or potential candidates for our project.

Please “like” us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram. And, of course, we welcome your financial support at: [www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org](http://www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org).

Photography: Dori Jacobson-Wenzel 

## We WERE Those Women



**Veteran Feminists of America**

**T**he activists of the Second Wave feminist movement literally changed the world. From 1965 to 1982, thousands of women (and men) took actions that made our country more equitable for women. Some of their stories are well-known. Many of their stories have never been told.

**We were those women.** The **Veteran Feminists of America (VFA)** is our organization. Our mission is to ensure that the history of the women's movement is recorded and preserved.

The **VFA Pioneer Histories Project** is the personal history of the Second Wave women's movement—one story at a time. This collection of first-person stories is critically important for historians. Our goal is to feature oral histories of as many Second Wave feminists as possible. Many of them are from people who are unknown except in their local areas. But all of them had a role in changing the world for future generations.

The Pioneer Histories Project is currently housed on the VFA website: [www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org](http://www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org). All highlighted activists have their own pages that include a link to their interview, transcript, photos and a list of resources to learn more about them.

Unfortunately, a great number of Second Wave activists are no longer with us. We feature many of them in our collection through the use of existing interviews and other resource material.

A listing of all subjects to date is included on the website. The VFA Facebook page and Instagram feed also feature many of the feminists included in the project.

## Our Story

On August 26, 1970, hundreds of thousands of women took to the streets to rally for their rights. On that day—the 50th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote—they were protesting the lack of equality for women. **We were those women.**

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1960

1970

1980

And here's what it was like on that day:

- Women with college degrees earned 51% of what men with degrees earned.
- Newspaper employment classified ads were listed by gender: jobs-male, jobs-female. And, not surprisingly, all the well-paid jobs were for men!
- More than a million illegal back-alley abortions were performed each year.
- There were virtually no female CEOs of the Fortune 500 companies, few women executives and a tiny number of women on their boards.
- There were sex-segregated public restaurants—men's grills—that didn't allow females in at lunch time because the busy men had to get back to work.
- A miniscule percentage of students in law schools, medical schools and business schools were female.
- Married females could not get credit in their own names.
- There were virtually no competitive sports for girls in public schools.

But those women (and men) in the streets that day were bound and determined to change things. They demonstrated, they lobbied, they argued, they wrote, they fought, they demanded, they sued. And they changed the world.

**We were those women.** And our stories are now available to you at [www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org](http://www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org).

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