

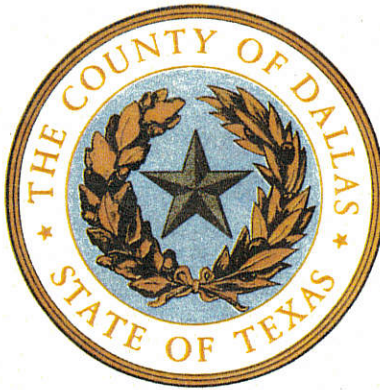
Resolution

ORDER NO. 2017-0296

DATE: March 7, 2017

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §



BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 7th day of March, 2017 on motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Dallas County Commissioners Court joins the nation and women from all walks of life in observance of Women's History Month for the contributions made by women everywhere to our nation's rich history. The National Women's History Month Project 2017 theme is "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business"; and

WHEREAS, March 1, 2017, officially marks the beginning of Women's History Month, a month long celebration occurring every year in March to recognize women who by their actions and service to the community unified their voices against inequality and helped pave the way for future generations of women; and

WHEREAS, The public celebration of women's history began in 1978 as Women's History Week and included March 8th as International Women's Day. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month and March was declared Women's History Month. This is the month we honor and publicly celebrate women's achievements throughout the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the history of Dallas County, women have advocated positive change in every aspect of our society and their accomplishments continue to impact the lives of every citizen. It was in Dallas County, 1893, that the first Texas suffrage organization was formed - the Texas Equal Rights Association. In 1918, twenty-five years later, Texas women leveraged their political influence during the Governor's race, practically guaranteeing the support of women's suffrage. In 1919, Texas became the 9th state in the Union and the 1st state in the South to ratify the 19th amendment, leading the way for other conservative states to support women's right to vote and run for office; and

WHEREAS, Women's History Month presents a remarkable opportunity to honor the tenacity and spirit of women in Dallas County whose contributions make a significant difference today such as Felicitas "Fela" Alfaro, Diane R. Miles, and Dr. Scherry Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Felicitas "Fela" Alfaro, a San Antonio native, has been an active member of the Dallas community for over 30 years. Her passion for community service began in San Antonio at the age of 16 where she taught citizenship classes at the local YWCA. She recently retired as the Executive Dean for Student and Enrollment Services at El Centro College and was a nursing instructor for 20 years. Felicitas is deeply connected to her faith and ministry and completed a Certificate in Pastoral Theology from the University of Dallas. She has been a member of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Church since 1984 offering leadership in the neighborhood and the larger community. Felicitas has been recognized for her work with housing for the HIV community and has previously served on the Ryan White Planning Council under former Dallas County Judge Lee Jackson. Today, Felicitas is involved in the Christian leadership Cursillo Movement of the Catholic Church and continues to dedicate her time in the areas of education, public health, and faith; and

WHEREAS, Diane R. Miles cares deeply about serving others and helping them achieve their dreams. A long and fulfilling career in education gave Diane the opportunity to actively pursue her passion to serve others and apply her leadership skills. She has served as a teacher, curriculum writer, school principal, and community relations liaison. She served as Interim Executive Director at the Vogel Alcove, a nonprofit organization that provides free childcare to the youngest children of homeless families. She also was Interim President and CEO of Educational First Steps, an organization that supports existing childcare centers by assisting them in gaining and maintaining quality and accreditation status. Diane has served on the following boards: Texas Health Resources - Presbyterian Dallas Healthcare Foundation, Dallas Housing Authority, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas Summit, and Cowan Center Council - Dallas Institute for the Humanities and Culture. Today, she is fulltime caregiver and encourages those who are facing chronic health issues; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Scherry Johnson lives life enthusiastically and has devoted the same energy to her professional career. Though retired, she continues to serve her community and promote the advancement of women and girls in Dallas County and beyond. Scherry received the prestigious Women Helping Women Maura Award and the Richardson YWCA Woman of Achievement Award for her community service. Education was a significant part of her career and she was instrumental in getting a grant from the Federal Department of Education to help school districts in a five state region implement Title IX. That resulted in opening jobs in education and educational programs, including athletics, to women and girls. She has a passionate commitment to public education and public health. Currently, Dr. Johnson serves as the District 1 appointee on the Parkland Board of Managers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on behalf of the Dallas County Commissioner Court and the residents of Dallas County, we call upon all citizens to observe the month of March as Women's History Month, recognizing that we draw strength and inspiration from the women who came before us and these remarkable women who are honored here today.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 7th day of March, 2017.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Mike Cantrell, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4