

NEWS RELEASE

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT CELEBRATED DOWNTOWN

LAS CRUCES---A community-wide event in honor of Women's History Month was held on Saturday, March 26 at the Plaza de Las Cruces. Hundreds attended the celebration which featured speeches, display tables, voter registration, music and dancing. The event was sponsored by the Southern New Mexico Women's Suffrage Alliance (which includes the League of Women Voters) which represents several organizations throughout the county, and by the City of Las Cruces.



Women's History Month, recognized in March, celebrates women who paved the way, and those who are still fighting for and representing women and women's issues today, said Eileen VanWie, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico.

"We had women, men and children participate in celebration of women's accomplishments," said Dr. Bobbie Green, president of the Doña Ana County NAACP and the event's emcee. "This was also an opportunity for our community to hear how women in this part of the state are making positive differences in our lives."



The keynote address will be given by Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Carmen Garza who grew up in Las Cruces. The crowd will also hear from Elisa Sánchez of the League of Women Voters and two proclamations honoring the month-long celebration were read by Las Cruces Mayor Pro Tem Kasandra Gandara and by County Commissioner Susana Chaparro.

A tribute to health care workers was given and NMSU student Hunter Stewart and Las Cruces High School student Adelaide Olberding also made remarks. Lorynn Guerrero, the New Mexico Teacher of the Year from New America School-Las Cruces, concluded the ceremony along with dancers from the Mountain View Senior Amigos.

Registrars from the County Clerk's Office will be on hand to register people to vote and a video of the movie "Salt of the Earth," a film depicting historical events from the early 1950s in Southern New Mexico, was awarded during a free door prize drawing. Entertainment was also provided by Dahlia de Mexico Ballet Folklorico, local singing duo "Just the Two of Us," and singer Chris Sanders.



February 1909 marked the first Woman's History Day in New York City commemorating the one-year anniversary of a garment workers' strike when 15,000 women marched to protest their working conditions. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8 "Women's History Week"

across the country. In March 1987, after activists' lobbying, Congress declared March as Women's History Month.

For more information about the League of Women Voters, contact VanWie at lwvsnm@gmail.com or call 575-524-VOTE (8683).

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