

Publisher's Desk

Women's Accomplishments

By Bala Prasad



When Nancy Pelosi became the first female Speaker of the House in U.S. history, the highest elected post ever held by a woman, she thanked her husband and children for helping her go “from the kitchen to Congress.” To put this in perspective, 135 years ago, when a feisty, visionary newspaper owner named Victoria Woodhull became the first woman to run for president as a nominee of the Equal Right’s Party, most women could not vote. Today, with a female presidential candidate leading the race in the Democratic primary, women consist of more than half of the voters in the United States.

I like women. My mother was a woman, my wife is a woman, and my daughters are women. Women have historically had and will continue to have an important and vital place in our society and in our culture. And I am pleased to announce that the future of women in this country seems to be getting brighter and brighter. Of course, being from the old country, I must admit that the idea of women running the world does send a chill up my spine. However, I certainly want my daughters to have available to them every opportunity that my sons enjoy. And if they cannot have this in America, the ultimate land of opportunity, then where can they have it? Scanning the globe, there are numerous countries with current or past female heads of state: Chile, Iceland, Argentina, Nicaragua, Ireland, Israel, Switzerland, Pakistan, Panama, Finland, England, Germany, Indonesia, the Philippines, and, most recently, India. So, yes, it is high time that women emerge as leading political figures in this country as well.

Of course, progress has been slow and steady. In 1981, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor became the first female Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. It took over ten years – until 1993 – for a second female Associate Justice (Ruth Bader Ginsburg) to be appointed to the Supreme Court. But in that same year, Janet Reno became the first female Attorney General of the United States. Five years later, Madeleine Albright was the first woman to become United States Secretary of State. Since then, a second woman – Condoleezza Rice – has held that esteemed position.

As another example of the the workplace, last year Katie anchor the weekday evening broadcast networks. This journalists, such as Barbara Vargas, co-anchoring the their male counterparts.

While progress has been progress just the same. To women gain prominence late Jacqueline Bouvier

Diana are two such examples. Those women, though icons, became known because of their male counterparts, although they certainly remained prominent long after their husbands were gone from their lives. Nevertheless, today, women by and large rise and fall based on who they are and what they have accomplished. Senator Hillary Clinton, as an example, will undoubtedly be recorded in the annals of history for her political victories (or defeats), rather than her role as Bill Clinton’s wife. So, to the women reading this article, good luck! And to the men reading this article, get ready!



slow but steady progress of women in Couric became the first woman to solo-news on one of the three major came after decades of leading female Walters, Connie Chung, and Elizabeth Evening News on those channels with

slow and steady, it has been be sure, gone are the days where through the men they marry – the Kennedy Onassis and Princess

Sincerely,

*Bala Prasad*