

## Press Release

### FINALLY!! WOMAN SUFFRAGE STATUE HONORED IN U.S. CAPITOL ROTUNDA

Washington, D.C. June 26, 1997 -- The Portrait Monument of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, the three women who initiated and then led the battle to enfranchise half our population, was finally honored today during a Congressional ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda hosted by Sen. John Warner (R-VA) and Rep. Constance Morella (R-MD).

"Now that the statue has been transported from the Crypt, which held it for so long, let this be more than a politically correct gesture, but instead let this herald a new Renaissance for our nation," said Senator Warner. "A time of reconciliation, not only for budgets, but race, gender and spirit. Let this statue and today's celebration signal that we are a people who remember that the Seal of our nation E. Pluribus Unum stands for: Out of Many – One."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who broke away from budget reconciliation meetings to participate in the ceremony said, "I hope that when citizens, particularly younger citizens, come to this particular statue they will say, 'what questions will I face in my lifetime that are worthy of the dedication, courage and persistence that these women had.'"

To the tens of thousands of citizens from across the country who fought in a four-year struggle to see the statue moved out of the Capitol basement, where it stood for 76 years, the elevation of the statue represents the profound contributions by women that have been glossed over and left out of history.



NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM

« [Women History Trail Act](#)  
[GWU Interior Design Class](#) »

## **Suffrage Statue**

April 19th, 2006



As its first major achievement, the NWHM spearheaded the effort with other women's organizations to raise \$85,000 and generate public support to move this monument of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony out of its 76-year confinement in the Capitol Crypt to the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. Now over 4 million visitors a year can see the contributions of these leaders of the Women's Suffrage Movement.



Posted in [About Us News](#) | [4 Comments](#) »

**4 Responses to "Suffrage Statue"**

[Mobile site](#) | [Mobile apps](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [RSS](#) | [Subscriber services](#)
[Your account](#) | [Log in](#) | [Contact/Help](#)

Monday, February 6, 2012 | TRAFFIC | 44°F

Follow us: [f](#) [t](#)
**The Seattle Times**  
 Winner of Eight Pulitzer Prizes

Search

[Advanced Search](#) | [Events & Venues](#) | [Obituaries](#)
[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Business & Tech](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Travel](#) | [Opinion](#)
[Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Homes](#) | [Classifieds](#)

Sunday, August 18, 1996 - Page updated at 12:00 AM

[E-mail article](#) | [Print](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

## Capitol Rotunda Home Sought For Women's Suffrage Statue

 By Michael Killian  
 Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON - Should Susan B. Anthony be allowed out of the Crypt?

When House Speaker Newt Gingrich and his Republican leaders troop back to work next month, they will be confronted by a prickly issue.

Whether to enshrine a large sculpture of Anthony and two other women's suffrage figures in the Capitol Rotunda - and thus allow the women to share the same glory given statues of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., James Garfield, the Marquis de Lafayette and Roger Williams.

Then, again, they could give in to efforts by female conservatives in Gingrich's party and keep the marble trio exiled in a dungeon-like downstairs Capitol chamber.

"At this point, we have very little representation of women that honors their individual achievement," said Sherry Little, staff member of the Senate Rules Committee, which is chaired by suffrage-statue champion John Warner, R-Va.

Anthony (1820-1906), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) and Lucretia Mott (1793-1880) are saints of the modern women's movement as the crusaders most responsible for women getting the vote.

After that victory was finally won in 1920, Congress commemorated it by accepting an Adelaide Johnson statue honoring the three. The work, which depicts the three women as heads and shoulders rising from a big block of marble, was dedicated in 1921 and installed in the Capitol Rotunda as a symbol of what Anthony & Co. had wrought.

But the all-male leadership of the Congress had the sculpture swiftly removed the next day and stuck away in a broom closet.

In 1963, it finally was allowed out of the closet and placed in a corner of a vaulted, ground-level chamber known as "the Crypt" because of its use as a temporary repository for the bodies of dead presidents.

Three legislative attempts were made to free these "sisters of the Crypt" but each failed in the face of conservative opposition. A fourth effort was launched last year, under the leadership of three Republicans: Warner, Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska and Rep. Connie Morella of Maryland.

This coincided with a similar drive by women's rights activists Joan Meacham and Karen Staser, co-chairwomen of a "Raise the Statue Campaign."

The hope was to have the statue reinstalled in the Rotunda in time for last year's 75th anniversary celebration of women's suffrage. A Senate resolution sponsored by Stevens and Warner to authorize the move, estimated to cost \$75,000 because of the weight and difficulty involved, was adopted unanimously and a matching House measure of Morella's was approved by committee.

But objections were raised by Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C., that taxpayers' money should not be used at a time of urgent deficit reduction, and the measure was shunted to the speaker's office, where it remains.

"All the statues of men in the Congress have always been paid for with taxpayer dollars," Little said. "There's a fund specifically set up in the architect of the Capitol's office."

Warner, Morella and other supporters of the reinstallation changed the wording of the measure to eliminate any expenditure of public funds. Last Feb. 15, Anthony's birthday, Meacham and Staser began a "one dollar" private fund-raising effort that Meacham says has brought in nearly \$50,000. She said she hopes to have the remaining \$25,000 raised by November.

[Most read](#) | [Most commented](#) | [Most e-mailed](#)

1. Seattle sports-arena talks well under way, documents show
2. Josh Powell kills 2 young sons in 'an act of evil,' authorities say
3. Progress being made to acquire NBA, NHL teams | Steve Kelley
4. Redmond aviation engineer's lifelong work has saved thousands of lives
5. Huskies slay atop Pac-12 with 69-41 victory over lowly USC
6. David Smith's Vashon house is Java old, garden new
7. Boeing finds another 787 manufacturing problem
8. UW hammers USC in a blowout | Husky Men's Basketball Blog
9. Kennedy elected to Hall of Fame
10. Jury gives \$975K to woman who gave birth alone on floor in jail cell

[Most viewed images](#)



But last April, a Gingrich ally, Rep. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., countered with a new objection - the sculpture's appearance. Because the women's heads and shoulders arise so abruptly from the block of marble, the statue has been derisively called "Three Women in a Bathtub."

"Congresswoman Johnson, who is 5 feet tall, feels overwhelmed by the size of the statue," said her spokeswoman, Lisa Pelosi. "Young children would not be able to see high enough. It's huge. Overwhelming."

Meacham and Staser say they would prevail on the House floor vote if Gingrich would release the measure for a vote. Meanwhile, Johnson has offered a "compromise" resolution that would allow the statue to stay up in the Rotunda for one year. After that, it would be replaced by a bronze statue of Wyoming's little-known Esther Hobart Morris, who helped get women registered in her Western state after women's suffrage was approved.

Copyright (c) 1996 Seattle Times Company, All Rights Reserved.

11/15/12 10:14:10



Get home delivery today!

ADVERTISEMENT

**SITE MAP** Home Local Nation/World Business/Tech Sports Entertainment Living Travel Opinion Obituaries Extras Forums Blogs

#### CONTACT/HELP

Site feedback/questions  
Home delivery issues  
Send us news tips  
Send letters to the editor  
Submit event listings  
Request corrections  
Newsroom contacts  
Social media  
Report malware

#### CONNECT

Facebook  
Twitter  
Mobile site  
Mobile apps  
Low-graphic site  
Newsletters  
RSS  
Today's News index

#### ADVERTISING

Advertise with us  
Digital advertising  
Classifieds  
Death notices  
Job listings  
Auto listings  
Real Estate listings  
Rental listings

#### COMPANY

About us  
Employment  
Historical archives  
Pulitzer prizes  
Seattle Times store  
Purchase photos  
Newspapers in Education

#### SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

Subscribe  
MyTimes  
Temporary stops  
Make a payment  
Print Replica  
Subscriber rewards



Today's front page (PDF)

## The Seattle Times

The Seattle Times Company Network: [Seattletimes.com](http://seattletimes.com) | [NWjobs](#) | [NWautos](#) | [NWhomes](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Personals](#)

Copyright ©2012 The Seattle Times Company | [Advertise with us](#) | [Privacy statement](#) | [Terms of service](#)

**Radnor Reports***Inside Washington's Headlines and  
Radnor Geopolitical Report***Ted Stevens and the suffragists' statue**Posted on [August 12, 2010](#)by **Ken Feltman**

My friend Ann Stone has written of Senator Ted Stevens and his help with the statue given to Congress by suffragists to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment. The statue had been stored in the Capitol Building Crypt but Stevens helped Ann and others get it raised to the Rotunda in 1997.

I once related to Stevens a tale told by my maternal grandmother. She marched for womens' suffrage and once was taken off to jail. She did not mind being jailed. She minded that she could not be released except into her husband's custody.

My grandfather minded, too, that his wife had been subjected to that one last indignity. He marched with her the next time, challenging the police to arrest them both. Apparently, he shouted, "What will you do? Will you release us into our daughters' custody?"

Stevens did not laugh. He shook his head when I told him and said there were more battles to fight and more good reasons to fight them.

From Title IX to many other issues of importance to women, Stevens was there at the critical point. In being there for women, he was there for fathers of daughters, husbands, sons, all of us.

ADVERTISEMENT

Share this:

Facebook

Twitter

StumbleUpon

Digg

Reddit

Email

Print

**About Radnor Reports**

Ken Feltman is past-president of the International Association of Political Consultants and the American League of Lobbyists. He is chairman of Radnor Inc., a political consulting and government relations firm in Washington, D.C. Feltman founded the U.S. and European Conflict Indexes in 1988. The indexes have predicted the winner of every U.S. presidential election beginning in 1988, plus the outcome of several European elections. In May of 2010, the Conflict Index was used by university students in Egypt. The Index predicted the fall of the Mubarak government within the next year.

[View all posts by Radnor Reports](#) →

This entry was posted in [Congress](#) and tagged [Ann Stone](#), [Congress](#), [Suffragists](#), [Ted Stevens](#), [Title IX](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

**One Response to Ted Stevens and the suffragists' statue****TR says:**

August 15, 2010 at 4:31 pm

Stevens was a fraud and should have been put in jail.

[Reply](#)

[Follow](#)

[JOBS](#) [RENTALS](#) [HOMES](#) [CARS](#) [CLASSIFIED](#) [AUCTIONS](#) [ADVERTISE](#) [STORE](#) [REWARDS](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#) [CONTACT](#)

[MARYLAND](#) [SPORTS](#) [ORIOLES](#) [BUSINESS](#) [LIFE](#) [HEALTH](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [EVENTS](#) [OPINION](#) [VIDEO](#) [DEALS](#)

[BREAKING NEWS](#) [WEATHER](#) [TRAFFIC](#) [OBITUARIES](#) [GAMES](#) [NATION/WORLD](#) [WEIRD NEWS](#) [MOBILE ALERTS](#) [BLOGS](#) [PHOTOS](#) [SUN MAGAZINE](#) [PRINT EDITION](#)

[Home](#) → [Collections](#) → **Capitol**

## Monument to suffrage leaves Congress unmoved

August 21, 1995 | By Elizabeth Schwinn | Elizabeth Schwinn, Hearst Newspapers

Washington - As the nation marks the 75th anniversary of women's right to vote, the Capitol's only monument to the suffrage movement will stay where it has been for 74 years: behind a pillar, a floor beneath the building's most famous gallery. Women's groups tried again this year to have the statue of Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton moved upstairs from the crypt, a ground floor display area, to the Rotunda, the Capitol's largest room.

The Rotunda now features only statues of men, including George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island.

Anthony, a native of Adams, Mass., Stanton, of Johnstown, N.Y., and Mott, of Nantucket, Mass., led the fight during the last half of the 19th century to give women the vote. All three died before their mission succeeded in 1920.

To honor them, by moving their likenesses to the same level as the men's statues, requires an act of Congress.

While the Joint Committee on the Library usually makes such decisions, it has resisted the move, citing the statue's weight -- 13 tons including its marble-slab base. Other Capitol statues average half a ton each.

"There is some concern about the floor load in the Rotunda," said William F. Raines Jr., spokesman for the Architect of the Capitol. "It has always been our position that it's in a prominent location now. The crypt is one of the main corridors of the building."

But those who want the statue upstairs say the move would be a powerful symbol to mark Saturday's 75th anniversary of women's right to vote. A celebration of women's suffrage scheduled for Aug. 24-27 will include a march, art and history displays, music and dramatic readings.

"Someday I hope the Rotunda will be graced with a statue of the first female president," said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska. "Until then, it is my hope to honor the role women have played by moving the women's statue up to the place of honor it should have in the Rotunda."

Mr. Stevens' spokesman, Mitch Rose, said the difference between the Rotunda and the crypt is like "the difference between going to the Grand Canyon and a neighborhood park. The Rotunda is the national display area of American history."

Although the Senate voted unanimously July 17 to move the monument, the House adjourned without voting on the matter. Maryland Republican Congresswoman Constance Morelia says she plans to bring up the resolution when the House returns in September.

Meredith Ager, a spokeswoman for the 75th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage Task Force, said group members are angry the House didn't vote.

"We really thought it was going to happen this time," Ms. Ager said. "If anything, I think it's impelled us to want to move it even more."

K? The task force charged that House Speaker Newt Gingrich and

Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., deliberately quashed the legislation.

But a Gingrich aide said the resolution was among several bills pulled because time was running out at the end of the session.

Mr. Stevens criticized Capitol architect George White for circulating a last-minute memo among House members raising concerns about the cost and difficulty of the move. Mr. Stevens said Mr. White's memo raised doubts that made a quick vote impossible.

Mr. White's memo said it would cost \$130,000 to move the statue and replace seven tons of marble slabs in the base with lighter weight supports. He also said altering the base would damage the monument's appeal.

### Related Articles

Exhibits commemorate 75th anniversary of women's suffrage

August 21, 1995

A rock and a hard place Statue: The stormy debate over...

June 22, 1996

Bathtub Ladies sing this song: Doo-dah

February 24, 1997

Roger Williams statue yields to one of suffragists Rhode...

April 10, 1997

75th anniversary of suffrage for women is celebrated with...

August 27, 1995

### Find More Stories About

[Capitol](#)

[Statue](#)

[Rotunda](#)

[75th Anniversary](#)



Mr. White concluded, "It is my considered opinion that, for both aesthetic and historical reasons, the statue should remain in its original form . . . which precludes its being placed in the Rotunda."

Mr. White's office has received complaints of sex and race discrimination. A 1994 report by the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, found Mr. White's office systematically denied women and blacks promotions. None of Mr. White's top aides is a woman. Mr. White, 75, plans to retire Nov. 21.

The women's task force challenged Mr. White's \$130,000 estimate, saying the move would amount to \$60,000. Mr. Stevens' office said a private group has agreed to pick up the tab.

The monument, sculpted by Adelaide Johnson in 1920, shows the three women's torsos and faces rising from rough-hewn stone, an effect similar to the faces on Mount Rushmore. Behind them is a block of uncarved stone, meant to represent future generations of activists.

The statue, a gift from the National Woman's Party -- a group active in the suffrage movement -- was supposed to be displayed in an open area, so visitors could view the women's faces and walk around it.

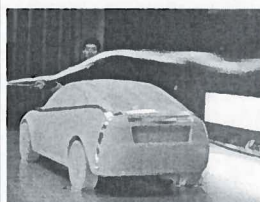
But it stands against a wall, sharing the room with dioramas of the Capitol.

Within a year of the statue's arrival, it was collecting dust in the crypt behind wastebaskets, tables and chairs, according to news accounts. After women appeared with cleaning buckets to scrub up the statue, the furniture was removed.

The only other statue ever moved to the Rotunda from elsewhere is the Martin Luther King bust, which once stood in a stairwell near the women's statue.

The only piece of art in the Rotunda featuring a woman is a large painting of Pocahontas, being baptized in order to marry John Rolfe.

### Featured Articles



Company aims to build viable electric car in Md.



'Ball So Hard University' big enough for only one person?



'American Idol' recap: Portland auditions

### MORE:

Arundel Mills casino opens employment center

Crossword Puzzles The long, dreary winter months were not...

Facebook files to go public

Misleading electric ads make case for reregulation

WWE Raw recap: Undertaker returns, adding yet another player to the CM Punk vs. John Laurinaitis feud

Are you setting S.M.A.R.T. goals?



[Index by Keyword](#) | [Index by Date](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

Please note the green-lined linked article text has been applied commercially without any involvement from our newsroom editors, reporters or any other editorial staff.