

Victory for Voting Rights!

It is the year 1919, and my grandmother, Catherine lives in Boston, Massachusetts. Before 1919 she was not able to vote for the President of the United States. She was also not able to apply for a loan, serve on a jury or purchase property the same as men could do. She works at home taking care of her children, like most other women do. Women could not have jobs as Lawyers or Accountants like men could. I don't understand why. Even the Declaration of Independence says that "all men are created equal." Did Thomas Jefferson really mean both men and women? Women were being treated unfairly. She was determined to change things.

Before Grandma Catherine was married she joined the National Woman Suffrage Association. Her friend Susan B. Anthony started this group. They traveled around the world together and gave speeches to convince others to give women a right to vote. They felt like they should have the same right to vote that men had. In 1872, her brave friend Susan voted illegally for President of the United States. Two weeks later she was arrested and fined \$100 for voting illegally. Their group worked hard to change how unfair women in this world were being treated, both politically and socially. They really fought to make a difference.

On June 4th, 1919 the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed by the United States Congress and this gave all American women the right to vote. Grandma Catherine stood proudly in line and was able to vote for the first time. She thought about her friend Susan and how happy she would have been if she were still alive. Women can finally vote like men can. She wondered what the future would be like. She knew that her daughter and granddaughters would still have to fight for the same rights that men had.

Fast-forward 100 plus years later to the year 2020. I am Catherine's granddaughter and I live in Florida. This is an Election year but I am not old enough to vote yet. I look forward to being able to vote in a few years. I have heard many stories about what my grandmother, Catherine did to give me and other women the right to vote. I am proud of her accomplishments.

Every four years I watch my own mother stand patiently in long lines waiting to vote. She always takes me with her into the small booth when it is her turn to vote. I don't mind going because at the end I always get to wear the "I voted" sticker on my shirt. I learned from my mother the importance of picking a President that believes what I believe. She said, if I obey the laws then I have a right to help make them. She taught me that every vote makes a difference. Everyone that can vote, should vote in the 2020 election. I believe that you can make a big difference!