

December is Universal Human Rights Month

Spotlight On: Eleanor Roosevelt



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“Do what you feel in your heart to be right—for you’ll be criticized anyway. You’ll be damned if you do, and damned if you don’t.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Why we’re proud of this individual:

- ◆ Eleanor was born in New York City in 1884. When she was 21 years old, she married rising politician Franklin Delano Roosevelt and found her passion in public service. For 28 years, up until she and FDR became First Lady and President, she immersed herself into the human rights and social justice issues. She continued her work on these issues but then added a third issue that she supported. She wanted rights for all people, not just one type of people, so she began advocating for the equal rights of women.
- ◆ Eleanor was not afraid to support someone when they needed it. While she needed to keep appearances for being the First Lady, she used her position and power to support those that needed the help. Courageously, she publicly supported Marian Anderson in 1939. Marian Anderson was a black female singer who was denied the use of Washington’s Constitution Hall because of her race. While Eleanor knew she couldn’t get Marian into the Constitution Hall, she did have the singer perform on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.
- ◆ In 1946, Eleanor Roosevelt was appointed as a delegate to the United Nations by Harry Truman—the man that succeeded the presidency after FDR passed on. Eleanor was the head of the Human Rights Commission and was a major supporter and driving force for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

<https://www.humanrights.com/voices-for-human-rights/eleanor-roosevelt.html>

Other Observances This Month:

- December 1: World Aids Awareness Day
- December 7: Pearl Harbor Day
- December 21: Winter Solstice
- December 23: Festivus
- December 24: National Egg Nog Day
- December 27: National Fruitcake Day

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