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FEDERAL COMMISSION KICKS OFF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH VISIT TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 4, 2020 – On March 3, the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC) visited the *Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote* exhibit at the Library of Congress, kicking off Women's History Month in the year of the centennial of women's constitutional right to vote.

The WSCC was formed by the U.S. Congress to coordinate the nationwide commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, which was officially ratified and signed into the Constitution on August 26, 1920. Led by a bipartisan group of 14 women leaders, the WSCC has a nonpartisan mission to ensure that Americans in every state across the country have the chance to participate in the centennial and to learn about this important but often overlooked history.

Dr. Carla Hayden, the current Librarian of Congress, who is the first woman and the first African American to hold the post, opened the WSCC's visit by describing the vital role the Library serves in uplifting and preserving women's stories. Dr. Hayden shared, "The Library curates the papers of Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary Church Terrell, and Clara Barton. My predecessor, Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Spofford, deserves credit for this amazing collection. He convinced his friend, Susan B. Anthony, that the Library of Congress would be the best place for her materials and papers. Other suffragists soon followed, and that's why we have the premiere collection of papers chronicling the longest social movement in American history."

Susan Combs, Chairwoman of the WSCC, said, "We are grateful to Dr. Hayden and the curators of *Shall Not Be Denied* for welcoming us to the Library of Congress and for all of their hard work to honor and amplify one of the most critical moments in American political history, the fight for women's right to vote."

Colleen Shogan, Vice Chairwoman of the WSCC, who was appointed by Dr. Hayden to represent the Library of Congress on the commission, said "The WSCC was proud to visit the Library in Women's History Month and on an important date in suffrage history, the 107th anniversary of the March 3, 1913 Suffrage Parade in Washington, DC."

After the tour of the exhibit, commissioners met in the afternoon to provide updates to the public about the many programs and projects the WSCC has planned to commemorate the centennial over the coming months. Some of these initiatives include placing roadside markers at suffrage history sites in all 50 states, donating suffrage history books to 6,000 public libraries nationwide, launching suffrage podcasts for children and adults, collaborating with an all-women skydiving team to promote women's empowerment during the centennial, and lighting up buildings and landmarks across the country in purple and gold on August 26.

For more information about the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, its initiatives, and commemorative events across the country throughout 2020, visit www.womensvote100.org.

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