



## Recognizing the Essential Rights of Every American

While the birthdays of three of America's greatest Presidents – Ronald Reagan, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington – occur during the month of February, there is another birthday in February that should be celebrated by all of us who are Republican Women, actively engaged in the political process, and who cherish our voting rights as citizens of this great nation. Susan B. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820. Her birthday has been made a legal observance, Susan B. Anthony Day, in several states.

Susan Brownell Anthony came from a Quaker family in Massachusetts. After leaving the teaching profession, she became one of the organizers of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in New York State. She was also active in the anti-slavery movement. Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she established the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. Their organization merged with another suffrage group in 1890 to become the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which worked to advance the cause of women's voting rights at both the national and state levels. As a leader in the women's suffrage movement, Susan B. Anthony lectured extensively around the country, and wrote numerous articles for some of the most widely-read magazines of the time. The years of dedicated effort began to have a positive effect in the late 1890s, as individual states slowly began to grant voting rights to women, ultimately leading to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.

Even though modern-day feminists have tried to claim Susan B. Anthony as one of their own, their goals are far from hers. For instance, she was passionate in her opposition to abortion. Articles she wrote for the weekly women's rights newspaper she founded, *The Revolution*, clearly reflected her views on this, according to the pro-life organization Susan B. Anthony List.

With the 45<sup>th</sup> annual March for Life having taken place recently in Washington, D.C., in addition to similar events held in many cities around the country, including Phoenix, Miss Anthony would likely be pleased that our nation's current President, Donald Trump, was the 1<sup>st</sup> sitting U.S. President since the March for Life began, to address pro-life leaders and march participants in person at the White House Rose Garden and via live video transmission. In his speech he said:

*"The March for Life is a movement born out of love. You love your families...your neighbors...our nation, and you love every child, born and unborn, because you believe that every life is sacred, that every child is a precious gift from God. ...Under my administration, we will always defend the very first right in the Declaration of Independence, and that is the right to life. ...We are protecting the sanctity of life and the family as the foundation of our society. But this movement can only succeed with the heart and the soul and the prayer of the people."*

President Trump issued a proclamation designating January 22, 2018, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. The Republican Party, which during Susan B. Anthony's lifetime was the anti-slavery party, is now, and has long been, the pro-life party, the political party dedicated to preserving the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans at every stage of life.

Here in Arizona, state Republican legislative majorities and two Republican Governors have, since 2009, enacted more than 37 pro-life measures, according to the Center for Arizona Policy, resulting in our state now being rated as the #1 pro-life state in the country by Americans United for Life.

**Priscilla Poese, Americanism Chair**