



Caroline Herschel

Caroline Herschel was born in Hannover, Germany, in 1750. She was a very curious child, but did not receive the education she wanted because she was a girl. Instead, she kept herself busy helping her older brother John mind his career — astronomy. She soon became an expert at grinding and polishing the lenses of the telescopes, and she observed the sky for her brother when he traveled on business. People began to notice her, so the British King George III gave her a pension for her work — the first

time ever that a woman was paid for her contributions. As the court's astronomer, she discovered 14 nebulae and 8 comets, and she made a catalogue of 2,500 star clusters. To do all of this, she had to teach herself math. She learned the multiplication tables so late in life that she always had to carry a copy in her pocket to help her remember! Toward the end of her life, in 1836, she was elected an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society — the first woman ever.

"I AM MINDING
THE HEAVENS."

"WOMEN HAVE COME
A LONG WAY IN THE LAST
100 YEARS, BUT IT'S NO
TIME FOR THEM TO REST
ON THEIR LAURELS."

In 1972, Patricia Schroeder was elected for the first time to the U.S. House of Representatives. She was a successful lawyer before entering politics, and she used her talents to support gun control, equal pay and health benefits for women, educational opportunities, and policies that bettered the lives of families. In Congress, she sat on many committees: the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, the House Armed Services Committee and the

House Judiciary Committee. Patricia Schroeder served the 93rd to the 104th Congress in 11 terms, making her the longest serving woman in the House of Representatives. She retired from office in December of 1996. Her political party, the Democrats, found a true friend in Schroeder, and she found a true home with them as well, saying, "The Democratic Party can never be perceived as the party of women... It is the party for women."



Patricia Schroeder

Bibliography & Credits

In addition to the women profiled in this section, it is important to emphasize that millions of unknown women throughout history have also made great strides in bettering the human condition. To find out more about the cultural contributions of everyday SHEroes, please consult the following books:

SHERoes by Varla Ventura

The Chalice and the Blade by Riane Eisler

Daughters of Time by Mary Kinnear

Women in the Middle Ages by Frances and Joseph Gies

Writing a Woman's Life by Carolyn G. Heilbrun, and

Women: From the Greeks to the French Revolution Susan Grogg Bell, edi-

tor.

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