

My name is Jody Shadduck McNally. I am a co-founder and president of Every Word We Utter Monument Board. I am here today together with fellow co-founders Jane DeDecker and Kyle Dallabetta. Together we are here to propose a monument commemorating the ratification of the 19th Amendment that honors the women who were instrumental in the fight for women's equality to be placed in Washington DC.

On November 2, 1920, an estimated eight million women voted for the first time, making it the largest increase in voter participation in the history of the United States.

Seventy two years earlier, in Seneca Falls, Elizabeth Cady Stanton heralded the Women's Movement with the delivery of "The Declaration of Sentiments," a demand for equality of rights, echoing -- but purposefully amending --- our country's own Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men *and* women are created equal." Her words elevated the founding vision of our country to include the voices of women. In 1878 Susan B. Anthony authored and introduced the proposed 16th Amendment "to prohibit the disenfranchisement of citizens of the United States on account of sex."

For an additional 41 years, Congress debated and denied the amendment. Countless women joined the movement, ranks swelled, and the pressure built, culminating into the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

It is in the spirit of this call to action that we are here today. The three of us started with a singular vision to celebrate these women by donating a commemorative work to our nation's capital. We followed in the footsteps of these women from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We went to Washington D.C., knocked on 97 out of 100 Senate Offices and met with members of the House - anyone who would listen. We began a grassroots outreach back home in Colorado and now have the support of the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, and women's groups from other states.

Today, per the Commemorative Works Act, thanks to Former Colorado Congressman, Governor Jared Polis and Congressman Joe Neguse along with the entire Colorado Congressional House Delegation consisting of; Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Congressman Scott Tipton, Congressman Ken Buck, Congressman Doug Lamborn and Congressman Jason Crow, and Colorado Senator Michael Bennet and Senator Cory Gardner, we have our bicameral bill allowing our group, Every Word We Utter Monument, to:

.... establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

The 100 year anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment is less than a year away. A Gallop poll asked for the most significant events of the 20th Century. Americans voted the passage of the 19th amendment as the second most important event second only to WWII. The Apollo Moon Landing was voted number seven.

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Of the roughly 7000 recorded public art works in our country, a mere 10% are dedicated to historical female figures, and many of these are allegorical. As Myra Pollack Sadker poignantly wrote, "Each time a girl

opens a book and reads a womanless history, she learns she is worthless.” The lack of female role models depicted in public art sends a message that women have not participated in the forming of our nation.

A young girl visiting our nation’s capital for the first time currently does not learn about the women who helped shape our country because we lack outdoor monument to to view and become inspired.

Regardless of gender or age, we cannot let anyone walk through a women-less representation of our American history, especially in our nation’s capital. Women from many diverse backgrounds have contributed great things to this country.

As I watch my teenage daughter becoming more civically engaged, and devoting her time bridging generational communication, and working for ways to improve her community, I am moved by the strength and perseverance of the women whom we owe a great debt that we can only repay by pressing forward. My daughter and I are pressing forward in this endeavor.

As we walk along the historical journey of this movement, a history that I was never taught or told, I have become more inspired and empowered.

It is a testament to our open government and the power of community engagement that we find ourselves here today. On behalf of *Every Word We Utter Monument* Board and Founders I want to thank you for including us in today’s agenda and considering our proposal.

Thank you,
Jody Shaddock-McNally

My name is Kyle Dallabetta. I am here today, not only as one of the Founders of *Every Word We Utter Monument* but also as a father of a daughter who will be franchised to vote in 2020 on the 100 year anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. I can’t speak for all, but I assure you that there are millions of men who, like me, recognize the magnitude of the passage of the 19th Amendment, and more importantly, recognize the lasting impact that women’s participation in our democracy has had on the United States..

The Commemorative Works Act has vested in you the solemn responsibility of ensuring that the public memorials and monuments placed in our nation’s capital symbolize our collective identity.

Walking the streets of Washington, D.C., visitors encounter historic monuments detailing the evolution of our great nation and discover the values that are important to us as a country and what and who we value as a society.

Through the sculptures placed throughout the city, they learn about our Founding Fathers, the Constitution, and the heroes of the Revolutionary War.

Viewers ascend the stairway to the Lincoln Memorial and experience the sheer awe of President Lincoln’s conviction for a unified nation.

Travelers journey through bread lines and war times alongside President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

They feel the pain of lives lost in the Vietnam War.

They hear Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream for equality and dedication to Civil Rights.

In this visual representation of our shared American experience, a significant element is missing. Women.

It was Albert Einstein who observed:

“Women always worry about the things that men forget;
Men always worry about the things women remember.”

We need to be reminded that women's participation in our democracy did not come easily and that Equality of Rights needs to be continually fought for and expanded upon. The work is not done, and we need this commemorative monument to keep the vision alive in the continued efforts towards equality.

The Every Word We Utter Monument board and founders, comprised of women and men, are dedicated to placing a monument that pays tribute to this victory for the American People a heroic monument dedicated to Women in our Nation's capital that will inspire our daughters to aspire to greatness.

I hope we can count on your support and look forward to the process ahead
Thank you,
Kyle Dallabetta

My name is Jane DeDecker,

I am an artist from Loveland, Colorado, and I too am a co-founder of the Every Word We Utter Monument. The time has come to place a tribute to the women whose journey brought them to our nation's capital where they bravely fought for women's right to vote in order to help to make a more perfect union.

I never imagined I would be here today to advocate for the placement of an outdoor monument to represent the achievements of women, but I am inspired by Elizabeth Cady Stanton's opening words at Seneca Falls. She had never before spoken in public, but she raised her voice to say, “the time ha[s] come for the questions of women's wrongs to be laid before the public . . . women alone must do this work; for women alone can understand the height, the depth, the length, and the breadth of her own degradation.”

We envision a monument that captures the height of the movement.

This monument should tell the story of the suffrage movement. From the first call to action to the celebratory ratification it should encompass the varied voices and work of these strong women, and coalesce into a never-ending cascade of involvement and change that still reverberates today.

A height that elevates our democracy and uplifts our consciousness with the power of collaboration.

At its height celebrating the accomplishments of women and constitutional change.

A height that reflects the lasting impact of the largest expansion of citizenship in the United States.

We envision a monument that captures the depth of the movement.

A monument that reveals the depth of devotion that the suffragists gave to the cause for equality and liberty.

A tribute to the depth and strength of character of women such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Sojourner Truth. Anthony and Stanton brought to Congress the first legislation toward women's citizenship. Sojourner Truth, a guiding light for the movement, was among the first voices of the suffragists. Sojourner met President Abraham Lincoln in Washington D.C. in 1864 where she advocated for freedom, education, and affordable housing for the newly freed African American citizens. These three women represent all women who dedicated their lives and fought for equality. Sadly, these women did not live long enough to have the opportunity to cast their own vote.

These three women paved the way for and inspired the next generation of activists whose efforts led to the 19th Amendment, women such as Harriet Stanton Blatch, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells. Blatch absorbed her mother's words and continued the fight all the way to the ballot box. Alice Paul re-energized the National Woman's Party and organized the Women's Suffrage Parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in 1913. Ida B. Wells was a towering activist, organizing such entities as the National Association of Colored women here in D.C. whose motto was, "Lifting as We Climb."

These women and so many others offer us the courage and the tools to be the stewards of human rights.

We envision a monument that captures the length of the movement.

A sculpture narrative is needed that acknowledges the long road to ratification from the Declaration of Sentiments to the drafting of the 19th Amendment to its eventual celebration and victory.

We envision a monument that captures the breadth of the movement.

An educational proclamation that projects into the future and urges positive social change in generations to come. A monument that speaks to the power of words and deeds ... or as in Stanton's letter to Lucretia Mott, "Every word we utter, every act we perform, waft into innumerable circles beyond."

The eventual impact of any commemorative work is dependent on the memorial site and design. The Monument to the 19th Amendment needs to be placed at a site that is prominent and visible with its historical linkage to the Capitol, celebrating the idea that shared visions and sustained efforts can bring about monumental change.

We hope the site and sculpture become a monument, dedicated to the power of collaboration and unity. A site for contemplation, collaboration, education, conversation and inspiration that is commensurate with the preeminent historical and lasting significance that the Woman's Suffrage Movement has had on the United States of America. It is time to fill in the missing stories of the women who helped build our country.

We need a sculptural tribute that captures the height, the depth, the length, and the breadth of the women's movement.

Thank you for your time.
Jane DeDecker

