# 'Sojourner Truth' reminds community about women's equality

A New York lawyer and member of the U.S. House of Representatives, "Battling" Bella Abzug famously pressed Congress in 1971 to designate August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." Now, 45 years after Abzug's successful campaign, and 96 years after the passage of the constitutional amendment that gave women the right to vote, we here at the U.S. Army War College will pause to observe Women's Equality Day at an event hosted by the Army Heritage and Education Center Friday, Aug. 26, at 1 p.m.
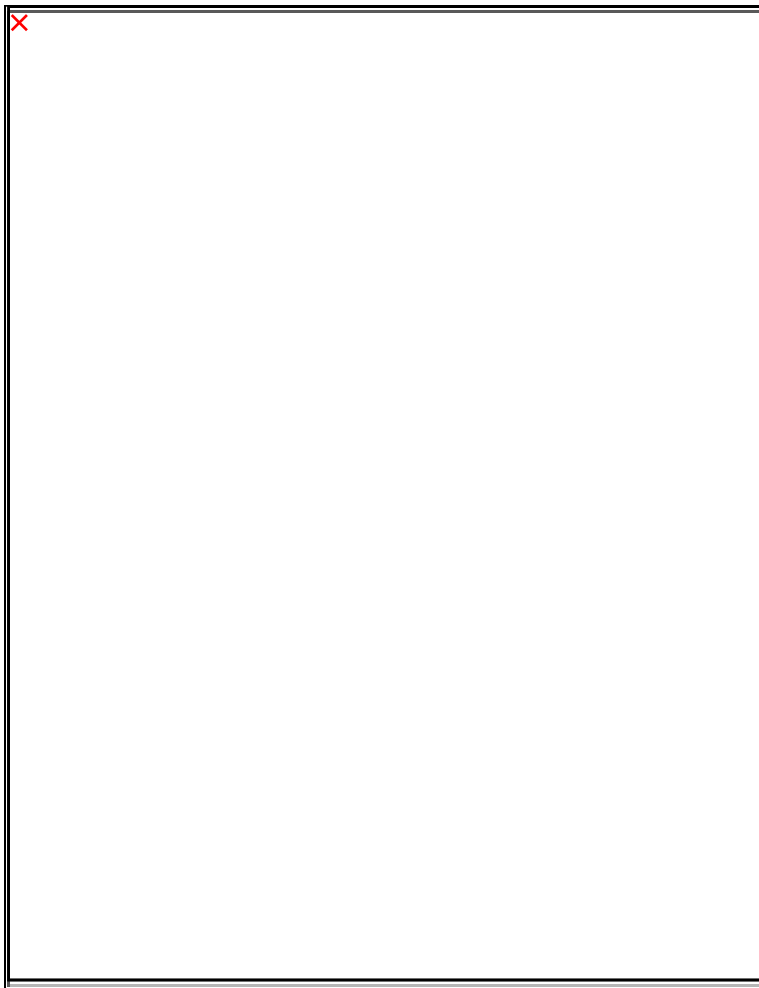
The Women's Equality Day event is free and open to the public, and the Cumberland Café will be open for those who wish to combine the event with a late lunch.

During the event Dr. Daisy Nelson Century will present a living history portrayal of Sojourner Truth. Truth was a former slave, anti-slavery speaker and early proponent of women's rights. Her ideals and aspirations helped develop the principles by which women gained not only the right to vote, but also the freedoms and equality to be "all they could be" in all walks of life, according to the Army Heritage and Education Center, the event sponsor.

"I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ar'n't I a woman?" asked Sojourner Truth at the 1851 Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio. "I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ar'n't I a woman?"

The Army honors the achievements of women like Truth throughout our nation's history, by guaranteeing all Soldiers, regardless of their sex, color or creed, have the opportunity to take advantage of their potential, and are positioned to fill vital roles within the military such as commanders, doctors, lawyers, engineers, mechanics, aviator, special operators, technologists and, now, combat troops  all committed to the freedom and security of our nation.

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