

**Madison Area Democratic Women Honor Local Connection to African American Marchers in Historic Women’s Suffrage Parade**

JACKSON, Tenn., August 13, 2020 – As the 100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th Amendment approaches – granting women their equal right to vote – the Madison Area Democratic Women (MADW) organization honors the courageous African American women who marched in the Women’s Suffrage Parade of 1913.

Below, two Jackson members of MADW discuss the historic role of their sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in the suffrage parade.

The [Women’s Suffrage Parade](http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/100-years-after-suffrage-march-activists-walk-in-tradition-of-inez-milholland/2013/02/27/532872c0-7f7a-11e2-b99e-6baf4ebe42df_story.html?itid=lk_inline_manual_3) took place in Washington, D.C. on March 3, 1913, featuring more than 5,000 marchers, nine bands, and 24 floats. Many people were opposed to women’s suffrage and the parade. Along the route down Pennsylvania Avenue, the women marchers were pushed, tripped, and attacked by spectators.

Donned in their university caps and gowns, the 22 young women founders of [Delta Sigma Theta Sorority](http://www.deltasigmatheta.org/history.htm) were the only African American women’s organization to participate in the parade. It was their first public act since the sorority was formed at Howard University only two months earlier, in January 1913, to promote sisterhood, scholarship and service.

Prominent civil rights activist, suffragist and founder of the National Association of Colored Women, [Mary Church Terrell](http://www.nwhm.org/online-exhibits/rightsforwomen/Terrell.html), was an honorary member of [Delta Sigma Theta Sorority](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-day-the-deltas-marched-into-history/2013/03/01/eabbf130-811d-11e2-b99e-6baf4ebe42df_story.html?itid=lk_inline_manual_22) and marched with the students.

The parade was segregated, and African American women had been told to march at the back of the procession. Renowned journalist, suffragist and anti-lynching activist [Ida B. Wells-Barnett](http://www.nwhm.org/online-exhibits/progressiveera/wells.html), a member of [Delta Sigma Theta Sorority](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-day-the-deltas-marched-into-history/2013/03/01/eabbf130-811d-11e2-b99e-6baf4ebe42df_story.html?itid=lk_inline_manual_24), refused to march at the back of the parade. She marched with the Illinois suffragist delegation at the front of the parade.

“I am proud to have been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for 48 years,” states Doris Black, a member of Madison Area Democratic Women and the Jackson-Madison County School Board. “I have sought to live by the examples set by our founders, who marched bravely without thought of harm to themselves, in the Women’s Suffrage Parade of 1913.”

“I have been inspired by other distinguished women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, such as Dorothy I. Height, who led the National Council of Negro Women for 41 years,” adds Ms. Black. “These strong women and others have given me the courage to continue to fight for civil rights and against injustices, which has led me into a life of service and leadership.”

Her daughter, Katrina Tate-Taylor, also is a member of Madison Area Democratic Women and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She says she learned as a child the distinguished history of the sorority from her mother, who was her first role model, and her aunt, who also is a member of the sorority.

“There are many other women I have admired through history who are members of our beloved sorority, including Shirley Chisholm, Ruby Dee Davis, Nikki Giovanni, Betty Shabazz, and Lena Horne – just to name a few,” states Ms. Tate-Taylor.

“My participation in Madison Area Democratic Women goes hand in hand with the principles of my sorority. One of Delta Sigma Theta’s founding principles is justice for all people, especially for the people in our communities. Being a member of both Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Madison Area Democratic Women is awesome!”

[Delta Sigma Theta Sorority](http://www.deltasigmatheta.org/history.htm), Inc. now has 200,000 members worldwide and 1,000 collegiate and alumnae chapters across the globe.

**About MADW**  
Formed in 2017, the Madison Area Democratic Women (MADW) organization supports women and girls of West Tennessee through advocacy and education, with the knowledge that empowering women strengthens the entire community. MADW sponsors the annual Sue Shelton White Scholarship for a woman in West Tennessee who desires to restart her education. MADW is a member of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women.

**Contact**  
Website: www.madwomentn.org  
Facebook: Madison Area Democratic Women of TN  
Email: madwomentfdw@gmail.com  
Phone: 731-661-1879

###