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March is Women's History Month. Yes, you are reading the LGBT Business Council's column not the Women's Business Council's column. Women make up a significant part of the LGBT community, including lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women, as well as allies. Integrating our community of women with the community of women in the United States is a trend in LGBT history.

This year the National Women's History Month theme honors women who have shaped America's history and its future through their public service and government leadership. These women include

- Tammy Baldwin (D, Wisconsin), the first openly lesbian Senator in US history and one of the most progressive members of Congress.
- Deborah Batts, the first openly lesbian African American sworn into the federal judgeship in the United States.
- Mara Keisling, a transgender rights activist and founding Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, the first professionally staffed transgender-specific organization working at the national level in the United States; previously Mara co-chaired the Pennsylvania Gender Rights Coalition.
- Amanda Simpson, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy, the first openly transgender woman political appointee of any U.S. Presidential administration.
- Rachel Levine, Physician General of Pennsylvania, the highest-ranked openly transgender woman ever in Pennsylvania government.
- Kyrsten Sinema (D, Arizona 9th), the first openly bisexual member of Congress.

These women are trendsetters in American history as much as any film, television, or sports star. By being the first LGBT people to represent their constituents and to advocate for the LGBT community in the United States, they have helped change people's minds about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and open our society to many positive changes. I for one thank these women, and the many other women, who led the way and made it possible for many of us to be where we are today.

Celebrate LGBT women in history with the LGBT Business Council on March 8. We are finalizing details of the event but hope to see you there. More details will be available through our Facebook page and the monthly LGBT Council email newsletter.