

HONORING BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK  
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Baltimore

**T**HROUGHOUT the Country, there has been observed Business and Professional Women's Week, to give deserved recognition to the outstanding achievements and continued progress made by members of their sex. As Chief Executive of the State it not only is a pleasure, but a distinct privilege for me officially to give recognition to this observance, and to invite the attention of all the citizens of our State, and particularly our women, to its significance.

The program arranged for the week was sponsored by, and its direction placed in the hands of, representative women's clubs of the Country and of our State. During the week in practically every one of our states, thousands of women, who have achieved leadership and responsible position, participated in the program in various ways. By such united action, it was possible to give emphasis to the progress and achievements of women during the years in American business, professional, and civic life. It was meet and proper that such a program should have been arranged. The voice of any movement, in the last analysis, is found to be the voice of the leaders of that movement. Recognition and appreciation, "through which comes encouragement," is almost always the result of persistent and emphatic action on the part of those who have active leadership in the interest of a given cause.

The progress made by women, while cause for pride on their part, really rebounds to the benefit of the whole of society. While the celebration of these women's clubs finds justification in the fact that these achievements have been made by women, the occasion deserves the commendation of us all.

Two years ago there was celebrated, during this annual week, "100 Years of Women's Progress," and many speakers at this time reviewed with deep satisfaction the significant advance made by the world during that period, and the notable part played in that progress by women.

The Business and Professional Women of America have a special responsibility in this. They must study and understand in order to lead. But they must know that leadership in a democracy cannot be for, it must be with the people. Our whole democracy, our whole effort, in this or any other field, depends on intelligent, active leadership, free from self-interest, and upon informed and active participation of all people with much leadership.

It is a distinct source of gratification to know that here in our own State of Maryland women have come to the fore with quickened pace particularly during the past two years. This has been so in a professional sense, in the field of commerce and industry, and in that most important sphere of every day life, the administration of our State's affairs. In this latter advancement, I am very happy to say, it has been my good fortune to play some small part.