



125th Anniversary NEWS RELEASE

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March: Women's History Month and the Women Leaders of Mesa County

Four female commissioners have led the county in 125 years, 33 combined years

Mesa County, CO—As part of the year-long celebration of Mesa County's 125th anniversary and in conjunction with Women's History month (March), the female commissioners are being highlighted as part of our history. Mesa County has had three female commissioners, plus our current commissioner Janet Rowland. Between the four female commissioners they have 33 years of dedicated service to the leadership of Mesa County.

The first female commissioner, Maxine Albers, was elected in 1974 and served for 15 years on the Board of County Commissioners. She served five terms as chairman of the Board. Albers was the queen of the Grand Junction Centennial celebrations in June 1982, during her tenure. Albers made remarks about her experiences on the Board and leadership role at the 125th kick-off event, February 11, 2008.

Doralynn Genova was the second female elected to the Board of County Commissioners. She served Mesa County from 1989 to 2005. Genova is the only female Democrat elected to the Board of County Commissioners in all of Mesa County's 125 years.

In 1995, Kathy Hall began her tenure on the Board of County Commissioners. She served for 8 years completing her tenure in 2003. Hall served as chairman of the Board six times, as she fondly recalls.

"Mesa County certainly has been welcoming to women in leadership roles," Hall said. "So many (Mesa County) community leaders have been history making women from state elected officials to city council, and everything in between. I'm so proud to have been a part of that history."

Janet Rowland currently is serving on the Board of County Commissioners as the fourth female in the history of Mesa County. Rowland was first elected to the office in 2004 and is currently running for a second term to the Board. At this time, Commissioners are term limited to two-four year terms. And Rowland is currently the Chairman of the Board.

It should be noted that on August 26, 1920 a constitutional amendment was adopted when Tennessee ratified the US Constitution the full woman suffrage in all states of the United States was granted. It took Mesa County more than 50 years to elect the first woman Commissioner, but since Albers' time, there has only been a four year period where Mesa County has not had a female on the Board of County Commissioners.

For more information about the events of the 125th anniversary visit the website at: <http://www.mesacounty.us/125/>

“Many faces, many places. One community—Mesa County.”

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