

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Amendment ratification deserves notice

Ninety years ago this month our state and nation experienced change of revolutionary magnitude, but who knows what it was? July Fourth is celebrated with parades and fireworks, but what about August 26?

Fortunately, the League of Women Voters of Sussex County is prepared to remind us that on that day in 1920 a proclamation was issued, announcing final approval of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, extending the right to vote to women throughout the land. Many Delawareans, however, are unaware of the role our own state played in this epic struggle.

Who knows of Mary Sorden Stuart of Greenwood, whose fight for women's suffrage began shortly after the Civil War and culminated with her appearance before the U. S. Senate's Judiciary Committee in 1880? Many have heard of suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, but how many are aware of their 1881 address to our General Assembly supporting efforts to change our state's charter to permit women to vote? Fewer still have likely heard of Delawareans Mabel Vernon and Florence Bayard Hilles and their arrests while picketing the White House in 1917.

In Sussex County, the League of Women Voters will recognize the 90th anniversary of this important day with the showing of the acclaimed film "Iron Jawed Angels" at the Milton Theatre in downtown Milton. Anyone interested in learning more about this fascinating story should plan to join them on Aug. 26 — and the modest admission even includes dessert. (Dessert is at 6:30 p.m., the film at 7 p.m.)

If you cannot be there, I hope every mother, daughter, and mother's son will take a moment that day to recall an event which literally changed the face and future of our nation. Fireworks, anyone?

Russ McCabe
Milton