

Patsy Takemoto Mink:

Taking a Stand for Gender and Ethnic Equality

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Junior Division

Individual Website

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I chose my topic, U.S. Congresswoman Patsy Mink because she co-authored Title IX, the landmark legislation passed in 1972 against sexual discrimination by guaranteeing equal opportunities in all federally funded educational programs. I am interested in both sports and women's rights. In her retirement interview I was watching, Coach Pat Summitt thanked Patsy Mink for all she did for women's sports through Title IX. I had never heard of either, so I was curious to find out more...I soon knew I had my history day topic.

My research started with newspaper archive databases where I found primary source articles on Title IX's passage and Mink's career in Congress. The Gettyimages Archive and the Library of Congress were sources for my photographs. Sue Davidson's biography, *A Heart in Politics: Jeanette Rankin and Patsy T. Mink* provided a lot of background research and details that I had not been able to locate elsewhere because Mink, although a public person, was very private in her personal life. To deepen my research, I conducted seven interviews. Kimberlee Bassford, a filmmaker in Hawaii who made a film on Patsy, called, *Ahead of the Majority*, provided information on Mink's accomplishments and help put me contact another filmmaker, Dean Kaneshiro, whose film, *Rise of the Wahine*, has not yet been publically released. He provided an overview of Title IX's importance to Hawaii. Four primary source interviews were very important to my research. Nancy Zweng, a Harvard graduate in 1976 who played Division I lacrosse, provided a perspective on the discrimination women faced then and how women's sports have changed, 30 years later, now that her daughter is also playing lacrosse at Harvard. Through Mrs. Zweng, I contacted Barbara Doran, the first woman to receive an athletic scholarship to Penn State, one the first women on the US Lacrosse Team, a Title IX activist, and a Trustee at Penn State, who shared her perspectives on what has and has not changed since Title

IX's passage. Gwendolyn Mink, Patsy's daughter, provided valuable information on Patsy's personal life and her character. I was able to interview Billie Jean King, a professional tennis player and Title IX activist by email, who discussed specifics of the legislation and its impact on all women's rights.

I chose to do a website because I had compiled a variety of information on Patsy and Title IX; pictures, quotations, and video clips. I chose the color pink in my layout design because it is the official color of the island of Maui, where Patsy grew up.

My topic relates to this year's theme because U.S. Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, although taking many legislative stands for gender and ethnic equality, made her most lasting stand for educational equality with Title IX, the Education Amendment Law of 1972. In recognition for her stand, the Congress renamed the law, the "Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act" in 2002 and she was awarded a posthumous Medal of Freedom in 2014.