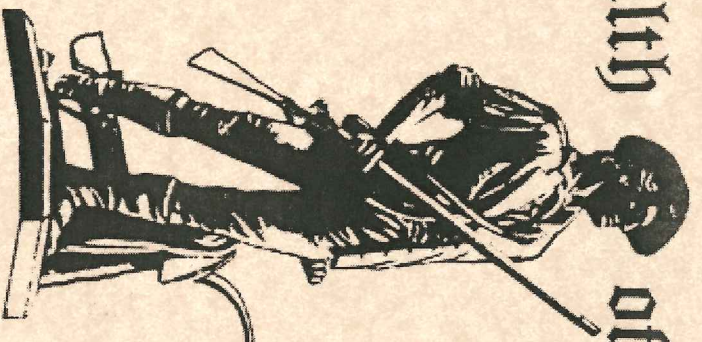


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Since the passage of Title IX in 1972, women have been guaranteed equal funding for interscholastic and intercollegiate sports. On Girls and Women in Sports Day, we honor the athletic achievements of yesterday and today of the many girls and women who participate in sports; and

**Whereas** Participation in sports is one of the most effective ways girls and women can develop self-discipline, initiative, confidence and leadership skills, regardless of background; and

**Whereas** Through athletics, the bonds built between girls and women can help to break down social barriers and the communication and cooperation skills developed play a key role in the athlete's contributions at home, at work and to society; and

**Whereas** Today, more than 1,000 participants from across the Commonwealth are joining together at Faneuil Hall to celebrate girls and women in sports and athletes from our high schools will be honored for their outstanding athletic efforts and achievements,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 to be

MASSACHUSETTS GIRLS & WOMEN  
IN SPORTS DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this second day of January, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

