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## Alice Paul, a Leader for Suffrage And Women's Rights, Dies at 92

By DENA KLEIMAN JULY 10, 1977

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Alice Paul a pioneer of the women's movement who helped lead the fight for women's suffrage and who, more than 50 years ago, helped draft the forerunner to today's proposed equal rights amendment to the Constitution, died yesterday at the Quaker Greenleaf Extension Home in Moorestown, N.J. She was 92 years old.

Until she suffered a stroke three years ago, Dr. Paul had continued to campaign for the equal rights amendment, which would guarantee equality to women. The amendment has been ratified by 35 states, three short of the number needed to make it part of the Constitution.

An ardent spokeswoman who organized rallies, went on hunger strikes, and on several occasions was sent to jail, Dr. Paul, as a young woman, was a relentless advocate of women's suffrage. She was educated as a social worker and lawyer.

In an interview several months ago, she said that the adoption in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, was the high point of her life.

"The thing I think that was the most useful thing I ever did, was having a part in getting the vote for all the women," she said.

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abroad. She helped to found the World Woman's Party, and was later instrumental in having a reference to sex equality included in the preamble to the United Nations Charter.

The daughter of a well-to-do Quaker family, she was born in Moorestown on Jan. 11, 1885. She attended Swarthmore College and earned a master's degree and a doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania.

It was not until she did graduate work in England, where she joined the British suffragists, that she began to participate in radical feminist activity.

In Britain she was arrested seven times and jailed three times. During one period she refused to eat and was force-fed by nasal tube twice a day for four weeks.

When Dr. Paul returned to the United States, she brought the militant and colorful British tactics to the American suffrage movement.

Under her direction, members of the National Women's Party, of which she was chairman, became "silent sentinels" outside the White House, where they would stand wearing white dresses and carrying purple, white and gold banners that expressed such sentiments as "How Much Longer Must Women Wait?" or, "An Autocrat at Home Is a Poor Champion of Democracy Abroad."

Dr. Paul also organized marches and rallies and managed to arrange a meeting with a newly elected President, Woodrow Wilson, to urge him to support the right of women to vote.

Almost immediately after the women's suffrage amendment was ratified in 1920,

### **'Silent Sentinels'**

she turned to the equal rights amendment, which she is credited with drafting (although in 1943 it was rewritten in the Senate Judiciary Committee).

In the 1920's, Dr. Paul earned three law degrees. She went to Europe, organized the World Woman's Party and lobbied in the League of Nations for equality. When World War II broke out, Dr. Paul returned to Washington and resumed her efforts on the equal rights amendment.

"I think it is fair to say she was ahead of her time," said Dr. Barbara Solomon, who teaches a woman's history course at Harvard University. "And if you believe in E.R.A., we are still trying to catch up."

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## Alice Paul

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