



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE OBSERVANCE OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

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BILLIE JEAN KING & WILMA RUDOLPH TO COMPLETE IWY TORCH RELAY

The IWY torch relay, which began in Seneca Falls, N.Y., September 29, arrives in Houston at noon, Friday, November 18 at the Albert Thomas Convention Center (Jones Plaza Entrance) to open the IWY National Women's Conference. A press conference begins when the torch arrives.

Celebrities on hand will include tennis player Billie Jean King; 1960 Olympic track gold medalist Wilma Rudolph; IWY Commissioners Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem, Liz Carpenter and Maya Angelou; Judy Carter, the President's daughter-in-law; Judge Sara Hughes of Texas; Susan B. Anthony, great niece of the famous suffragist; Diana and Lt. Governor William Hobby; and Sissy Farenthold, a Texas native who is President of Wells College in New York.

All IWY delegates and members of the public are invited to join the last lap of the relay which begins at Overlook Park across from San Felipe Park on Allen Parkway at 11:30 a.m. Runners with greater endurance are invited to join Wilma Rudolph and 1964 Olympic gold medal swimmer Donna deVarona for the last three miles of the marathon run. Ribbons will be given to all runners who complete the three miles, regardless of placement. Starting point for the three-mile run is the Fonde Recreation Center, Houston Street and Memorial Drive. The torch will arrive there at 10:45 a.m.

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Billie Jean King and Wilma Rudolph will receive the torch in the name of women in sports. The torch will be on display in the Albert Thomas Convention Center during the conference. Accompanying the torch is an official declaration written by IWY Commissioner Angelou. Each of the runners in the torch relay has signed this official declaration, known as "To Form A More Perfect Union."

Homemakers, athletes, teachers, secretaries, farmwomen, grandmothers, nurses, high school and college students, numerous celebrities and other have jogged through New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, D.C., Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and now Texas. Each person has run an average of one mile, with a total of over 2,000 participants running a total of 2,610 miles from Seneca Falls, the site of the first women's rights convention in 1848 which addressed women's right to vote.

Houston is the location of the first government sponsored National Women's Conference in the United States. Delegates to this conference were selected from 56 States and Territorial meetings this past summer to represent all women of this nation and to make recommendations on eliminating the barriers which still prevent women's full and equal participation in National life.

The relay is being organized by the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports and the National Commission on IWY. It is being sponsored by womenSports magazine in association with the Roadrunners of America and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Official runners wear T-shirts with the slogan "American Women on the Move. The shirts were donated by Colgate-Palmolive.