May I have your attention, please. Will you please make way as the Gateway Girl Scouts, Highlands Cluster now present the Colors.

City Councilwoman Suzanne Jenkins (or Joannie Graham) will now lead us in the Pledge Allegiance to the flag.

Good morning! Good morning! Good morning!

Thank you for joining in our celebration of 80 years of Women having the Right to Vote, 80 years of Suffrage, for on this day, 80 years ago, August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment became a part of the U. S. Constitution and Women now had the right to vote.

And thank you for joining in our celebration of 30 years, for 30 years ago, on August 26, 1970, the Women's Movement began in Jacksonville Florida with an event that led to the founding of the Jacksonville Chapter of the National Organization for Women.

We are honored by the presence of each of you. We would also like to recognize some of the individuals who have joined us here today.

(Introduce from list)

Thank you. I know that each of them appreciates your support.
Would Karen Danko, Cathy Drompp, Pam Flinn, Sharon Laird, Judy Sheklin, and Elizabeth Teague please come up to the platform. Louise Warren should be here, however, after leading us in song, she left to prepare the ceremony at Mary Nolan's gravesite and the picnic to follow.

These are the women who put together today's celebration.

And now to answer that question, "Why did we demonstrate on August 26, 1970?" What was the world like for us back then?
HISTORY

Let's go back to that day, 30 years ago, August 26, 1970 to the day the Women's Movement began again in Jacksonville, Florida.

It was a bright golden day as are usually the remembered days of our youth.

The call came from Vicky Wengrow. There was to be a demonstration for Women's Equality in front of the Federal Building on Bay Street. Vicky asked me, "Would I consent to be a part of it?"
HISTORY (page 2)

Hesitantly, I said, "Yes". I said yes, because I knew, in the pit of my stomach, in my heart, and in my mind at that moment, that answering that call (being a part of that demonstration) was my chance to respond to a statement about our role in life, a statement I had made time and again as a little girl and then as a young woman.

That statement was one that you have made as a little girl, and that you have made as a young woman. The statement to which I could finally respond by participating on day long ago was: "THAT'S NOT FAIR!! How many times had I said it as a child. How many times have each of you said it?

To say we who were about to participate weren't fearful would not be telling the truth. On that day, we each tried to behave as though nothing was unusual.
I called my mother. I never told her what I was going to do, but I did call her. I made an appointment to have my hair done. Now remember this was 1970. I donned my mini skirt, pulled on my blue vinyl knee high go-go boots and I was ready.

Carla Miller a 19 year old freshman from FSU and a Delta Zeta sorority girl. She not only called her mother, she persuaded both her mother and sister to join demonstration. Today, Carla is a well known attorney. You've seen her on TV and she is also the Ethics Officer for the City of Jacksonville.

Let's go back. And the question is, Why did we demonstrate? Let us tell you very briefly what the world was like for Women in the year 1970?
WOMEN WERE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXAM TO DRIVE CITY BUSES, OBVIOUSLY THEN, THEY WEREN'T ALLOWED TO DRIVE CITY BUSES.

WOMEN WERE NOT ALLOWED ON THE POLICE FORCE.

WOMEN WERE NOT ALLOWED AS FIREFIGHTERS IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

MARRIED WOMEN COULD NOT BUY OR SELL PROPERTY IN THEIR OWN NAME.

THE WORDS "EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK" WERE JUST BEGINNING TO BE FORMED.

MARRIED WOMAN BY LAW HAD TO TAKE THEIR HUSBAND'S NAME. EVEN HYPHENATED NAMES WERE NOT LEGAL.
ABORTION WAS ILLEGAL! WE HAD NO "RIGHT TO CHOOSE!" WIRE COAT HANGERS AND BACK ALLEY ABORTIONS WERE OUR ONLY CHOICE!

WOMEN EARNED 57 CENTS FOR EACH DOLLAR A MAN EARNED!

MARRIED WOMEN COULD NOT HAVE CREDIT (OR EVEN A CREDIT CARD) IN THEIR OWN NAME.

WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY WOULD NOT RECEIVE RETIREMENT BENEFITS

JOBS IN THE FLORIDA TIMES UNION WERE CLASSIFIED AS "HELP WANTED MALE" OR "HELP WANTED FEMALE".

WOMEN WERE NOT ADMITTED ON AN EQUAL BASIS AS MEN TO EITHER THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LAW SCHOOL OR THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.