

## SUFFRAGIST SLAM

Four Score and one score more ago  
Our Fore-sisters made a go of it  
In order to make a more perfect union  
Between men and women.

The vote was granted to half the population  
Who had been taken for granted

Men had ranted since time was born  
Women were weak and left forlorn  
We became his property; must act properly  
Propriety dictated the union  
To take his name; to take the blame; to bear the shame  
To share his bed; to be well-bred but not well-read  
Instead be docile and obey  
Lay aside the hystrionics; Don't be hysterical

Yet looking back, women proved not to be hysterical  
But rather proved to be historical.  
Moved to be courageous,  
Tore out of the pages of his story  
To write her story- the right story - the story of rights

Abigail Adams in 1776 wrote a letter to her husband, John. "I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors.

Gentlemen, remember the ladies.

1848- pre-Civil war; Seneca Falls was the start of the plot  
Elizabeth Stanton and Lucretia Mott declared their sentiments  
That both genders are endowed  
With inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  
They pursued the protest against a form of government, existing without the consent of the governed.

Gentlemen, Remember the Ladies:

Carrie Chapman Catt, Lucy Burns, Inez Millholland, Alice Paul  
Got the call and with fellow sisters all kept the ball rolling  
Toiling for equal rights

But fighting for liberty took its toll

Peaceful protests at Lafayette Square  
Led to imprisonment; It wasn't fair  
Instead of being liberated, they were berated  
And hated and subjugated  
To force feedings and unjust feelings.

The hunger strike was deemed suicidal and a show of denial of sanity  
But consider this:  
When Nathan Hale said, "Give me Liberty or Give me death,"  
He was immortalized.  
When Alice Paul refused to eat,  
She was infanticized.  
Intubated with pablum until sated. Innundated with scorn;  
They rendered her helpless, wielding tools of the strong  
But we know helplessness is wrong

These women knew rights were worth all the pain  
They knew their fight would not be in vain.  
They used their bodies, hearts, and their minds,  
To explain

That all men and women are created  
And fated  
To be leaders, and readers  
And writers, inciters  
Law makers, cake bakers  
All men and women are created  
To be their best selves

And how can that happen when half the population has been set on shelves  
To await commands

Be Damned!

-Mr. President, How long must women wait for liberty?

It took 72 years from Seneca Falls to the great halls of Congress in 1920. Harry Burn, the youngest representative in the Tennessee legislature, had previously voted against ratification, and it was presumed he would continue to be an anti-suffragist.

But his mother had another idea.  
Had a better idea that she sent in a letter  
To her son:  
"Hurrah, and vote for suffrage!" Phoebe told her son.  
In the end she said, "be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the 'rat' in ratification."

Voices rose up and coldly complained  
Twenty-four year old Harry boldly explained his vote:

"I know that a mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow," he claimed, "and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."

And take note of the mothers' satisfaction  
The vote passed  
At last  
We declare our rights  
We share or fights  
Women's voices mattered  
Men's dominance shattered  
To pieces  
But peace is yet to come  
Four score and one more score later

How can Me Too Be True  
When three quarters of our Congress are men  
When free borders are controlled by men

When there are still too many tired and poor  
masses yearning to be free.

When we criticize it becomes politicized  
Diversions keep us anesthetized.

But Gentlemen, Remember the ladies  
And keep your eyes on the prize.

Raise your glass  
To a class of women  
Who gave their all  
And let's recall the fight they fought  
The passion wrought  
The power brought  
It's not for naught

If we VOTE!