Patsy Mink the Democrat from Hawai’i

Individual Website

Senior Division

Kayln Jordan

I have always excelled when it comes to technology, so for National History Day it’s without question that I would create a website for my project each year. This year, I wanted to choose a topic that has impacted the world that I live in, something that will allow me to give one last impression on the contest before I graduate, and I decided Title IX was perfect. The law’s always been important to me, I’ve witnessed discrimination in my school, sports, and work due to gender and I learned very quickly some things are going to be more difficult for me to achieve as a woman. I also learned that there are millions of strong courageous women who fought for the rights that I have, so devoting a years worth of research and writing to someone so extraordinary was perfect. Mink has been my hero since seventh grade, and there was no better way to honor her than focus on her for my last ever History Day competition. I know that Title IX is a very popular topic, but, I believe that my take on it will stand out to the judges and I hope that I will convey the importance of the law and that equality is never boring nor overdone.

I began researching websites and articles, mainly reactions to the law being passed. Soon after, I realized I wanted to focus on Mink. I narrowed my research to how she affected Title IX and learned that she has made huge steps toward gender equality in our country and has helped congress vote towards these ideals. I also watched the documentary, *Ahead of the Majority,* written about Mink, to learn more about her life and legacy.

I decided to make a website this year because I am a visual person, websites are ideal to me because I can see everything I’m referencing and my sources are right there, you click on the link and see where I have obtained the knowledge. It is also very easy to stretch the limits, per say, with large amounts of information, including pictures, videos, and facts that couldn’t otherwise be summed up in a documentary or exhibit.

Patsy Mink and the revolutionary Title IX relate to this year’s theme, Taking a Stand in History, because she did something that other politicians were afraid to do: say something that people disagree with. Mink didn’t care if people liked her or not, she just made it clear that equality was her main goal, and she achieved it. Mink used her position in congress to attend to the needs of minorities by helping end segregated dorms in colleges, pushing to bring troops home from Vietnam, and ending the discrimination of women in public schools. Today she is titled the ‘Mother of Title IX’, as she was one of the primary authors of the law. Mink’s roll in government and her part in today’s society’s push towards equality helps relate her story to this year’s theme.