Alice Paul
“Founder of the National Woman’s Party”
January 11, 1885 – July 9, 1977

Born into a Quaker family in New Jersey, Alice Paul became involved in the suffrage movement from a young age. She engaged in prison hunger strikes and was sent to the Occoquan Workhouse prison in terrible conditions. In October 1917, Paul and other jailed suffragists referred to it as the Night of Terror, following a night of beatings and arrest by people who felt these protests obstructing traffic.

Paul later went to the Harrison School in Shawnee, Oklahoma Territory around 1903. A lifelong Democrat, Larch Miller went to Central State Teachers’ College in Edmond upon graduating high school, then became a kindergarten teacher at Shawnee’s Harrison School. She taught there for several years. In 1910, Larch Miller attended the Oklahoma State Suffrage Ratification Committee. The committee adjourned without voting on ratification of the 19th Amendment, so the only hope left was to get Governor James Robertson to call a special session. Governor Robertson ordered the state flag flown following a night of beatings and arrest by people who felt these protests obstructing traffic.

After her death, Judge George Carl Abernathy of Shawnee moved to pass a resolution of sympathy for Larch Miller, naming her “a martyr to woman suffrage.” Governor Robertson ordered the state flag flown at half-mast and Attorney General Freeling would be present at the convention to argue against calling a special session, Larch Miller violated the 19th Amendment to attend Larch Miller’s funeral. Larch Miller today has a memorial to honor her in Shawnee, remembered as a gifted orator with boundless energy and charm paired with impressive ideas. Larch Miller was inducted into the first Oklahoma Woman’s Hall of Fame.

Sources
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