

## Mary Wells

### 1949-2020



Ms. Wells was born in Garden City, Kansas, November 22, 1949. However, much of her childhood was on a dairy farm in Mr. Vernon, Ohio. She eventually found her way back to Kansas and on an unintentional path to shatter the glass ceiling.

Ms. Wells has the important distinction of being the first woman hired to work inside the refinery, specifically the maintenance division of Skelly Refinery, now known as Holly Frontier. Hired on February 11, 1974 as a “Beginning Laborer”; her starting wage was \$4.05 an hour. This milestone hire was the focus of a Wichita Eagle story on March 31, 1974, [Mary Wells is a Skelly Girl.](#)

For 41 years (Mary retired in 2015) Mary’s role at Skelly took her to many facets of the plant; Maintenance, Operations, Machine Shop and Warehouse. Mary was proud of her time there and her family of coworkers. While at the refinery Mary participated in the union and was an employee representative for the United Way campaign.