Author and feminist Betty Friedan speaks in Boston in the 1970s. PHOTO: Friedan, whose 1963 manifesto 'The Feminist Movement' laid the groundwork for the modern feminist movement, died Feb. 4.

The first president of NOW 'wrote The Feminist Mystique' BY BRIELE BURKISS NEW YORK — Betty Friedan, whose manifesto "The Feminist Mystique" helped launch the contemporary feminist movement, died Saturday at 87. Friedan died at her Washington, D.C., home, according to a family source. Friedan was a founder of the National Organization for Women, a professional writer and a professor of social work.

Friends and colleagues said Friedan lived a life of service to others. She was a woman who was always looking for ways to help others.

Friedan's work has had a profound impact on the feminist movement and on women's rights. She was a leader in the movement for women's equality, and her message has resonated with women around the world.

In 1963, Friedan published "The Feminist Mystique," a book that challenged the traditional roles of women in society. The book was a bestseller and has been influential in shaping the feminist movement of the 1960s.

Friedan's work has been praised for its courage and its ability to speak truth to power. She was a tireless advocate for women's rights and is remembered as a leader in the fight for gender equality.

In her final years, Friedan was a vocal critic of the feminist movement and its direction. She believed that it had become too focused on individual issues and was not addressing the larger social and political issues that affected women.

Friedan's legacy is one of courage and conviction. She was a woman who believed in the power of women and was willing to stand up for what she believed in. She was a true leader in the feminist movement and will be remembered for her contribution to women's rights.

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