

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M23-0931.01 Andrew Webster x2044

SJM23-006

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coleman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bacon,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23-006

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR GLORIA TANNER.**

1 WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague and beloved pioneer,
2 Gloria Tanner, a past member of the Colorado House of Representatives
3 and Senate, departed this life on April 4, 2022, at the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Tanner earned her bachelor's degree in
5 political science from the Metropolitan State University of Denver in
6 1974 and her master's degree in urban affairs from the University of
7 Colorado in 1976; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Tanner was: A loving mother to her son,
9 Terrance R. Tanner, and two daughters, Tanvis R. Tanner and Tracey L.
10 Tanner; a beloved grandmother to Tiffani Tanner, Terrance Tanner, Dahir
11 Adam, Tracie G. Tanner, LaToya Phillips, Torrance Phillips, and Teddy
12 Phillips; a blessed great grandmother to Dafni Salazar, LeAysia Tanner,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 Carter Neal, Aspen Slankard, and Taryn Garner; a loving sister to Violet
2 Travis Ricks, Esq.; a loving aunt and great aunt to many nieces and
3 nephews and great nieces and great nephews; and a loyal friend to
4 countless others; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Tanner was a founding member of the
6 Reginas Social and Civic Club and a dedicated and hard-working member
7 of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority among other historic organizations
8 committed to improving the quality of life for all; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Tanner began her political career working as
10 the executive assistant to Colorado Lieutenant Governor George L.
11 Brown, and in 1978 she became executive director of communications for
12 Colorado Senator Regis Groff; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Tanner successfully ran for a seat in the
14 Colorado House of Representatives for House District 7 in 1985 and
15 served for nine years; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Tanner became the second African American
17 to fill a leadership position in the House with her election as House
18 Minority Leader in 1987, a position she held until 1990; and

19 WHEREAS, Upon the resignation of Senator Groff of Senate
20 District 33, Senator Tanner was appointed as his replacement, making her
21 the first Black woman to serve in the Colorado Senate. During her term,
22 she served two years on the Joint Budget Committee; and

23 WHEREAS, During her time in the legislature, Senator Tanner
24 helped pass Colorado's safe haven law, which allows parents to
25 anonymously surrender a newborn they can't support. She also sponsored
26 bills on civil rights for women and people of color and worked to give a
27 property tax break to certain older homeowners; and

28 WHEREAS, Being a pioneer was not enough for Senator Tanner.
29 She was a trailblazer, creating the Black Round Table and National
30 Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women to prepare and bring
31 up the leaders behind her. In addition, she established the Gloria Tanner
32 Leadership and Training Institute for Future Black Women Leaders of
33 Colorado and Colorado Black Women for Political Action; and

34 WHEREAS, Senator Tanner was inducted into the Colorado

1 Women's Hall of Fame in 2002 and left behind a legacy and mantle that
2 every Black woman and leader will be able to stand on for years to come;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the Senate and
5 the House of Representatives of the seventy-fourth General Assembly,
6 pay tribute to the dedicated service of Senator Gloria Tanner and express
7 our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by her death; now, therefore,

8 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General*
9 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
10 *concurring herein:*

11
12 That, in the death of Gloria Tanner, the people of the state of
13 Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, and
14 that we, the members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the
15 seventy-fourth General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and
16 heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family and pay tribute to a
17 person who served her state well and faithfully; and

18 *Be it Further Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be sent to
19 Senator Tanner's son, Terrance R. Tanner; her daughters Tanvis R. and
20 Tracey L. Tanner; her sister, Violet Travis Ricks; the president of the
21 Reginas Social and Civic Club; and the president of the Denver Alumnae
22 Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.