

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

**ENGROSSED**

LLS NO. M23-0931.01 Andrew Webster x2044

**SJM23-006**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23-006**

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR GLORIA TANNER.**

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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.*

SENATE  
Final Reading  
April 11, 2023

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.