



SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23-006

BY SENATOR(S) Coleman, Baisley, Bridges, Buckner, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Liston, Lundeen, Marchman, Moreno, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Sullivan, Van Winkle, Will, Winter F., Zenzinger, Fenberg;
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Bacon, Amabile, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Brown, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, English, Froelich, Garcia, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hamrick, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Story, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weissman, Willford, Woodrow, Young, McCluskie.

MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR GLORIA TANNER.

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

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

WHEREAS, Senator Tanner was: A loving mother to her son, Terrance R. Tanner, and two daughters, Tanvis R. Tanner and Tracey L. Tanner; a beloved grandmother to Tiffani Tanner, Terrance Tanner, Dahir Adam, Tracie G. Tanner, LaToya Phillips, Torrance Phillips, and Teddy Phillips; a blessed great grandmother to Dafni Salazar, LeAysia Tanner, Carter Neal, Aspen Slankard, and Taryn Garner; a loving sister to Violet Travis Ricks, Esq.; a loving aunt and great aunt to many nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews; and a loyal friend to countless others; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Senator Tanner was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 2002 and left behind a legacy and mantle that every Black woman and leader will be able to stand on for years to come; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the Senate and the

House of Representatives of the seventy-fourth General Assembly, pay tribute to the dedicated service of Senator Gloria Tanner and express our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by her death; now, therefore,

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

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

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

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES