

REFERENCE TITLE: Polly Getzwiller; death resolution

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

SCR 1043

Introduced by
Senator Arzberger; Representatives Alvarez, Burns J

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE POLLY GETZWILLER.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Polly Getzwiller, longtime member of the Arizona Legislature, died on
2 March 18, 2008.

3 A native Arizonan, Polly Getzwiller was raised on the Blue River just
4 outside of Alpine in the White Mountains. Her parents were pioneers in the
5 area. She attended Florence High School. On graduation she married a cotton
6 farmer named Bill Thomasson. After being married a few short years Polly
7 lost her husband in a tragic automobile accident. Polly inherited the cotton
8 farm on the Greens Reservoir, where they lived until the mid-1960s. With no
9 prior experience in farming and young children, Polly entered the world of
10 agriculture and became successful.

11 A few years later, Polly met her second husband, Marion. Marion was a
12 cattleman and Polly was the farmer. They became a team. The family moved to
13 the Casa Grande area in the late 1960's and lived there until making a
14 permanent move in the late 1970's to the Gila Bend area. They raised three
15 children, Billie Lou, Bill and Joe.

16 Polly Getzwiller became interested in politics and was elected to the
17 Arizona House of Representatives in 1962. She ably served her constituents
18 in Casa Grande and the greater Pinal County area in that capacity until 1976,
19 when she was elected to the Arizona Senate where she served until 1984, for a
20 total of twenty-two years of legislative service. During her legislative
21 tenure, she served on such vitally important committees as agricultural,
22 appropriations, finance, natural resources and transportation. She was known
23 and respected for her support of women's equality and for work in resolving
24 Arizona's water issues.

25 In 1990, she again ran for public office as Justice of the Peace in the
26 Gila Bend precinct where she served until retiring in 2001. Her son, Joe,
27 succeeded her and continues in office today.

28 Polly Getzwiller earned her pilot's license, and flew her airplane back
29 and forth to the legislature. She was active in numerous community and civic
30 organizations, including the Arizona Cotton Growers Association, the Pinal
31 County Farm Bureau, the Eloy Business and Professional Women's Club and the
32 Hoemako Hospital Auxiliary. Polly Getzwiller gave freely of her time, energy
33 and efforts to better the world around her, and her dedication to public
34 service and to her community earned her the respect and admiration of all who
35 knew her. Her life story is one of service to her family and to the state.
36 She presented an example of the strong leadership and commitment of the
37 pioneers of Arizona.

38 Therefore

39 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
40 Representatives concurring:

41 That the Members of the Legislature express regret for the passing of
42 Polly Getzwiller and extend their deepest sympathies to her surviving family
43 members.