

# MISSOURI STATECRAFT: ADDITIONAL TRAILBLAZING WOMEN, 1950-2020



## Leonor K. Sullivan (1902-1988)

A St. Louis native, Leonor Sullivan was the first woman from Missouri elected to the U.S. Congress, serving in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1952 to 1974. During her time in office, Sullivan was the principal author of the 1968 Consumer Credit Protection Act. (Image courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.)

## DeVerne Lee Calloway (1916-1993)

In 1962 DeVerne Calloway became the first black woman elected to the Missouri Legislature as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, serving until 1982. A champion of civil rights while in office, she and her husband, Ernest Calloway, published the *Citizen Crusader*, later named the *New Citizen*, a newspaper covering black politics and civil rights in St. Louis. (Image courtesy of Missouri State Archives.)



## Mary L. Jones Gant (b.1936)

A Kansas City native, Mary Gant served three terms in the Missouri House of Representatives beginning in 1967. In 1972, Gant became the first woman elected to the Missouri Senate, serving until 1981. When asked what it felt like, she replied, "I don't know how it feels; I've never been a man. I'm a senator. A senator is a senator" (*The Statesman*, Nov 1992). (Photo courtesy of the *Missouri Times*, November 15, 2019.)

## Harriett Friedman Woods (1927-2007)

Harriett Woods served as one of only two women in the Missouri State Senate, winning elections in 1976 and 1980. She became the first and only female Lieutenant Governor of Missouri in 1984. From 1991 to 1995 Woods served as president of the National Women's Political Caucus, a nonpartisan organization that provides support to female political candidates. (Image courtesy of the State Historical Society of Missouri.)



## Gwen B. Giles (1932-1986)

After beginning her political career in 1968 as campaign manager for U.S. Representative William L. Clay, Missouri's first black congressman, Gwen Giles became the first black woman elected to the Missouri Senate, serving from 1978 to 1980. She was also the first woman and first African American to be appointed St. Louis City Assessor. (Image courtesy of the State Historical Society of Missouri.)

## Joan Kelly Horn (b.1936)

Joan Horn was the second woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Missouri, serving from 1991 to 1993. Reflecting upon her minority status during this time, she said, "There are just so few of us. Not that it's deliberate; it's just systematic to the institution. Since we aren't going to get equity, we have to work with men." University of Missouri-St. Louis BS '73, 'MS 75. (Image courtesy of U.S. House of Representatives.)



## Jo Ann Emerson (b.1950)

In 1996 Jo Ann Emerson of Cape Girardeau joined the U.S. House of Representatives upon the death of her husband who died in office. That same year Emerson became the first, and only, woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress as an independent or third party member, serving in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1996 to 2013. (Image courtesy of U.S. House of Representatives.)

## Ann Trousdale Wagner (b.1962)

A native of St. Louis, and 1984 University of Missouri graduate, Ann Wagner began her term as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2013. In 2019 Wagner was part of the record number of women serving in the U.S. Congress. (Image courtesy of the U.S. House of Representatives.)

