



# Lena Swanson

## Quick Facts

**Birth:** October 1, 1937  
Weatherford, Oklahoma

**Death:**

**Occupation:** Veteran's Benefit  
Specialist

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Years served:** 1997

**Office:** Senator

**District:** 35 (Mason, Kitsap, Thurston,  
Grays Harbor Counties)

### Personal:

- Veteran's benefit specialist for the State of Washington for more than 20 years
- Married, 4 children

### Education:

- Stevens-Henegar Business College, Houston, Texas
- South Texas Junior College
- Graduated from Bremerton High School

### Community Service:

- Helped lead campaign to approve a transit tax in Kitsap County in late '70s.

### Affiliations:

- Local 482, WFSE, AFL-CIO Retsil Veterans Home, president, 1976-1980
- American Ex-Prisoners of War, national service officer, 1985-2002
- National Organization of Veterans Advocates (NOVA)
- Vietnam Veterans of America, associate member
- Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, member

### Awards:

### Legislative & State Service:

- Ran for the Senate and lost to Tim Sheldon in the 1997 primary election.
- Appointed February 3, 1997 to serve Senator Brad Owen's unexpired term.
- Ran for Representative in 1996 and lost to Peggy Johnson in the general election.

**Committees:** Energy and Utilities; Government Operations

### Leadership, Positions & Appointments:

- Governor's Council on Substance Abuse