



Vivian Caver

Quick Facts

Birth: 1928

Tennessee

Death:

Occupation: Activist; Diversity Consultant

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Years served: 1994-95

Office: Representative

District: 37 (King County)

Personal:

- Operated a travel agency in Seattle in the early sixties

Education:

Community Service:

- Helped organize human rights councils throughout Seattle, especially dealing with open-housing, which helped lead to the creation of the Seattle's Human Rights Department
- Girl Scouts
- John C. Cannon House, co-chair

Affiliations:

- Women in Unity, chair

Awards:

- Affirmative Action Award, Seattle Urban League, 1980
- Leadership Emeritus Award, Big Sisters of King County, 1992
- "Vivian Caver Diversity Award" given by the Seattle Girl Scouts, in recognition of her work to help the national Girl Scouts reach out to girls of color

Legislative & State Service:

- Appointed January 10, 1994 to serve Gary F. Locke's unexpired term
- Ran for representative in the 37th district in 1986, 1990 and 1994 primaries

The following bills only include those that passed the legislature

House Bills sponsored:

(1994 session)

2319-Enacting programs to reduce youth violence

Signed by Governor Lowry, partial veto

2627-Promoting single-family home ownership

Signed by Governor Lowry

2670-Increasing senior citizen property tax relief

Signed by Governor Lowry

2671-Reducing gross receipts taxes for small businesses

Signed by Governor Lowry

2750-Changing provisions relating to joint operating agencies

Signed by Governor Lowry

2811-Eliminating obsolete practices in state procurement

Signed by Governor Lowry

2812-Revising provisions insuring energy conservation in design of public buildings

Signed by Governor Lowry

2813-Revising provisions relating to public works contracts with the state

Signed by Governor Lowry

2814-Allowing public benefit nonprofit corporations to participate in state contracts for purchases

Signed by Governor Lowry

2815-Reforming state procurement practices

Signed by Governor Lowry

2843-Creating pilot projects to reduce long-term disability within workers' compensation

Signed by Governor Lowry

House Concurrent Resolutions sponsored:

(1994 session)

4437-Providing electronic access to legislative information

Passed

Leadership, Positions & Appointments:

- Seattle Human Rights Department, vice-chair, 1968-1978
- Seattle Human Rights Department, chair, 1978-1981
- Washington State Commission on Judicial Conduct, 2001-2005
- 37th District Democrats, chairwoman

Sources:

- Angelos, Constantine, "7 Women Lauded by Big Sisters as Role Models," *Seattle Times*, November 8, 1992
- Strickland, Daryl, "Civic Activist Chosen for House Seat—Nominee to Serve Gary Locke's Term," *Seattle Times*, December 28, 1993
- Jamieson, Robert L., "Activist Caver Top Choice to Fill Locke's Seat," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, December 29, 1993
- "Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project," University of Washington, <http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/caver.htm>

From Washington Women's Consortium:

Vivian Caver's Statement for Web Page:

Serving as the third African American woman representing the 37th Legislative District in the House of Representatives was a privilege. Marjorie Pitter, Peggy Maxie and I served at a time when women were beginning to step out of their traditional roles and expand their presence in public service. My background as director of the Human Rights Department of the city of Seattle assisted me in developing policy and legislation. My term of vice chair of the 37th District Democrats prepared me to represent the issues and concerns of the citizens of my district regarding improvement of the quality of life in Seattle and the state of Washington. It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I am grateful for the honor to serve.

Profile:

Vivian M. Caver

Mrs. Caver has decades of experience locally, nationally, and internationally as a public servant and in the private sector.

In Seattle, she served 17 years with the City of Seattle in the Human Rights Department.

As Community Development specialist, she organized 27 Human Rights Committees both in the city and suburban cities. Through these councils efforts, Open Housing was passed by the City Council and also the creation of the department with civil rights laws to enforce. She served the department as assistant Director from 1971 to 1975 when she was appointed by Mayor Wes Uhlman as the Director.

Nationally and internationally, she served as Director of Training and also President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, member of the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Advisory Committee. A national EEO consultant for discrimination with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Mrs. Caver retired from Totem Girl Scout Council, Seattle, as Director of Membership/Human Resource and Diversity in 1993.

Since retirement, she remained actively involved in improving the quality of life in Seattle and the State of Washington. In 1994 she served in the Washington State Legislature as the 37th District Representative from Seattle, completing the remaining term of then newly-elected Governor Gary Locke. She was a member of the Washington State Judicial Conduct Commission. As a member of the Washington State Democrats Central Committee Executive Board, she chairs the Affirmative Action Committee, and held the position of Chair of the 37th Legislative District two terms, as well as Vice Chair.

Mrs. Caver has received numerous awards and commendations for services. In 2000 she was designated King County Democrat's "Living Treasure of the Year." Big Sisters of King County honored her with their first Leadership Emeritus award for standing out "at a time when women received extremely limited acceptance in non-traditional roles. She has been a board member of Pioneer Human Services for 22 years and received their Meritorious Service Award. Other recognitions include the Affirmative Action Award given by the Seattle Urban League and Employee of the Year award by the Totem Girl Scouts.

As a business woman in the 1960s, Mrs. Caver operated the first African American travel agency.