



Frances G. Swayze

Quick Facts

Birth: February 11, 1901
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Death: January 1, 1994
Gig Harbor, Washington

Occupation: Dean of Women at
University of Puget Sound (1959),
Admissions Counselor for UPS (1961),
Research Assistant for UPS (1965)

Party Affiliation: Republican

Years served: 1953-65

Office: Representative

District: 26 (Pierce County)

Personal:

- Moved from Iowa to Tacoma as a child
- Married to Thomas A. Swayze in 1923, they had 5 children
- Her husband served as Director of Licensing under Governor Langlie and Controller for the City of Tacoma
- Her son, Thomas Swayze, became a Pierce County Superior Court judge and her daughter, Gretchen Swayze Wilbert, became mayor of Gig Harbor.

Education:

- Stadium High School graduate
- College of Puget Sound, B.A.

Community Service:

Affiliations:

- American Association of University Women
- Avon Study Club
- Business and Professional Women
- League of Women Voters
- P.E.O. Sisterhood
- Pi Beta Phi, fraternity for women
- United Methodist Church
- United Way
- YMCA

Awards:

- Washington State Mother of the Year, 1956

Legislative & State Service:

- She resigned from her seat on September 29, 1965. Her son, Thomas Swayze, was appointed to serve her unexpired term on October 5, 1965. He went on to be elected Speaker of the House in 1971. He resigned from the House of Representatives on December 31, 1973.

Committees: (1953) Cities and Counties; College and Universities; Elections; License; Medicine, Dentistry, and Drugs
(1955) Legislative Processes, vice chair; Constitution, Elections and Apportionment; Medicine, Dentistry and Drugs; State Government

(1957)

(1959)

(1961)

(1963)

House Bills sponsored:

(1953 session)

46-Relating to wage deduction statements

Went to first reading

105-Extending extra hazardous employments

Went to first reading

296-Relating to term of office of port commissioners in certain counties

Went to third reading

312-Increasing real estate tax exemption of eleemosynary schools

Went to first reading

321-Requiring certain braking equipment on trucks drawing trailers

Went to first reading

385-Relating to sale, use, explosion or transportation of fireworks

Went to first reading

470-Making hearings of state administrative agencies mandatory

Went to third reading

(1955 session)

142-Providing for distribution and expenditure of federal flood control land leases

Went to third reading

143-Permitting refunds of overpayments by state agents

Signed by Governor Langlie

144-Providing for distribution and expenditure of federal grazing funds

Went to third reading

180-Changing the method whereby the state treasurer shall handle certain funds collected from the federal government

Went to third reading

181-Establishing a separate fund in the state treasury to receive proceeds from sale of emergency school construction bonds

Went to third reading

182-Providing method of receipt and disbursement in the state treasury of federal forest reserve funds

Went to third reading

Leadership, Positions & Appointments:

- Twice elected as a freeholder of the City of Tacoma, served as vice chair in 1952. Prepared a new charter of the City of Tacoma.
- Chairwoman of the National Commission on the Status of Women within the United Methodist Church. The work of this commission led to full church and pastoral privileges for women.
- Dean of women and an assistant to the president at the University of Puget Sound.
- Training Officer, Department of Motor Vehicles, 1965. Responsible for coordinating all training activities in every division of the department.
- Caucus Secretary,

Sources:

- Tacoma City Charter <http://www.ci.tacoma.wa.us/cityclerk/files/CityCharter/Charter.PDF>
- "Swayze to Give Up Her Seat in House," *The Daily Olympian*, September 30, 1965