



Rosa Franklin

Quick Facts

Birth: 1927
South Carolina

Death:

Occupation: Registered Nurse

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Years served: 1991-1993 (H)
1993-2012 (S)

Office: Representative; Senator,
President Pro Tempore, 2001-03

District: 29 (Pierce County)

Personal:

- Married, 3 children

Education:

- South Carolina State, Orangeburg, South Carolina, one semester, 1945
- Good Samaritan Waverly Hospital School of Nursing, Columbia, S.C., 1948
- University of Puget Sound, B.A., Biology/English, 1968
- Pacific Lutheran University, M.A., Social Sciences/Human Relations, 1974
- Gynecorp Training Program, University of Washington, Health Care Specialist Certificate, 1974
- Honorary Doctorate in Public Service, University of Puget Sound, 2006

Community Service:

- Bates Technical College, advisory board
- Cancer Screening Program for Targeted populations, advisory committee
- Cascade Regional Blood Services, board member
- Pierce County AIDS Walk
- South End Neighborhood for Family Safety
- Tacoma Urban League

Affiliations:

- AHEC Board, Western Region
- NAACP
- Pierce County League of Women Voters' Speakers Bureau
- Safe Streets
- Tacoma Urban League

Awards:

- Legislator of the Year, Washington State Labor Council, 2004
- Inducted into the Washington State Nurses Association Hall of Fame, 2002
- Lifetime Achievement, Washington State Democratic Party, 2000
- Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award, Washington Women's Political Caucus, 2001
- Woman of Distinction, Girl Scouts of America, Pacific Peak, 1999
- Ever-Active Tribute to Excellence Award, 1995
- Outstanding Non-Veteran, 1995
- Outstanding Volunteer, Pierce County Government
- Honorary Citizen, City of Tacoma
- Democratic Woman of the Year, Washington State Federation of Democratic Women
- Thurgood Marshall Award, African Americans Port of Tacoma
- Distinguished Public Service Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for Western Regions, Regional

Directors

Inducted into the WSNA Hall of Fame, 2002; Stafford Study Club; Outstanding Volunteer, Pierce County Government; Honorary Citizen, Citizen of Tacoma; Washington Assn. of Community College Women's Programs; Pierce County Nurses Association; Democratic Woman of the Year, Washington State Federation of Democratic Women; Thurgood Marshall Award, African Americans Port of Tacoma; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for Western Regions, Regional Directors Distinguished Public Service Award; Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award, 2001, Washington Women's Political Caucus; Lifetime Achievement, Washington State Democratic Party, 2000; Girl Scouts of America, Pacific Peak, 1999 Woman of Distinction; Outstanding Non-Veteran, 1995; Ever Active Tribute to Excellence Award, 1995. Honorary Firefighters Awards-Local 31, Tacoma-2005; Benedict Good Samaritan Waverley Nurses, Mary L. Little Award; Outstanding Contribution to the Profession of Nursing and as an Advocate for Social Justice, August 2005; Pierce County DUI and Traffic Safety Award 2003; American Cancer Society recognition Award for demonstrated Commitment to fight Cancer.

Legislative & State Service:

- First African-American female elected to the Washington State Senate
- Joint Select Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs
- Appointed January 25, 1993 to serve unexpired term for Senator A.L. "Slim" Rasmussen, elected to this position on November 3, 1993

Committees: (1991) Housing, vice-chair; Commerce and Labor; Health Care; Local Government (1993) Health and Human Services; Natural Resources; Rules (1995) Human Services and Corrections, vice-chair; Health and Long-Term Care; Labor, Commerce, and Trade; Rules (1997) Commerce and Labor; (1999) Labor and Workforce Development, vice-chair; Health and Long-Term Care; Human Services and Corrections; Rules (2001) Health and Long-Term Care, vice-chair; Rules, vice-chair; Human Services and Corrections; Labor, Commerce and Financial Institutions (2003) Commerce & Trade; Health & Long-Term Care; Rules

Leadership, Positions & Appointments:

- President Pro Tempore, 2007
- Democratic Assistant Floor Leader, 2003
- President Pro Tempore, 2001
- Majority Whip, 1999
- Democratic Whip, 1997
- Vice President Pro Tempore, 1995
- Democratic precinct committeewoman for the 29th district, 1972-88
- Ran for Tacoma City Council in 1973 and lost
- Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1976, 1988 (three-time delegate?)
- Pierce County Democrats, vice-chair
- Pierce County Planning Commission, 8 years
- Tacoma Citizen Budget Review Committee

Sources:

- "Franklin ready to run again, opposed or not," *The News Tribune*, June 4, 1998.

- “Franklin sworn in as first black senator,” by Bob Partlow, *The Olympian*, January 27, 1996.
- “Lawmaker optimistic region will again have trauma care,” by Elaine Porterfield, *The News Tribune*, August 24, 1995.
- “Years of politics paid off for legislator,” by Jon Savelle, *The News Tribune*, May 29, 1991.
- “Franklin hopes to help ease path for others,” by L.A. Johnson, *The News Tribune*, March 31, 1991.
- Ray Moore: An Oral History, interviewed by Sharon Boswell, Washington State Oral History Program, Office of the Secretary of State, 1999