



# Gladys Phillips

## Quick Facts

**Birth:** 1912  
Aberdeen, Washington

**Death:** March 26, 2000

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Years served:** 1951-53

**Office:** Representative

**District:** 21 (Grays Harbor County)

## Personal:

- Daughter of Ernestine and James Marston Phillips who was also an attorney, and served as Aberdeen Mayor, Washington State Legislator and later Grays Harbor Superior Court Judge
- Violinist in the University of Washington Symphony and became concert mistress
- Ran a prominent law firm in Aberdeen for over sixty years
- Married Lester "Pinky" O'Day, an insurance agent, in 1947

## Education:

- University of Washington, B.A. and Law Degree
- One of six women to graduate with a law degree from the University of Washington in 1935

## Community Service:

- Helped found the Grays Harbor Community Foundation in 1994, according to their website: "The Grays Harbor Community Foundation works with donors from all walks of life who want to create unique funds to improve local communities. By helping donors help their communities through charitable giving, we are working to build a community endowment for the long-term benefit of Grays Harbor County."
- The Gladys Phillips Cultural Tours Program (Bishop Tours Fund) was, according to the Grays Harbor Community Foundation website: "Established by the E.K. and Lillian F. Bishop Foundation through the vision of the late Aberdeen attorney Gladys Phillips, this fund provides opportunities for all Grays Harbor students in grades 4 and 5 to visit a cultural institution of their school's choice. OMSI, Woodland Park Zoo, Pacific Science Center, Experience Music Project, and the Washington State Historical Society are all popular choices. The fund also permits all sixth graders in Grays Harbor County to attend the Pacific Northwest Ballet's production of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. The Bishop Tours Fund provides money for tickets, transportation and meals."
- Helped erect the Aberdeen YMCA
- Gladys Phillips Memorial Scholarship

## **Affiliations:**

- American Bar Association
- American Judicature Society
- Washington State Bar Association

## **Awards:**

### **Legislative & State Service:**

- Gladys Phillips only served one term, and in a *Daily World* article she explains why: “I didn’t care for the legislature. It didn’t matter how much you worked. I was asked to sponsor a bill to raise the salaries of the state Supreme Court justices. The retirement benefits for judges were very, very low and salaries in those days were not that great...something like \$7,300 per year. Do you know, they voted this bill down? I had had it.

I served one term in the legislature and that was it. I didn’t lay around up there. I went up there to work. I went up there for business. And the first thing that happened was a case of beer was delivered to my residence.

I got the word out. No more beer! There was all kinds of monkey business up there. You know, you’re there for a purpose. I did some good things. I did some things I was proud of doing“  
(Spitzer, March 19, 2000)

**Committees: (1951)** Engrossment and Enrollment; Fisheries; Forestry, State Lands and Buildings; Judiciary; Public Utilities

### **House Bills sponsored:**

#### **(1951 session)**

119-Increasing garnishment exemption to \$35 a week

Went to third reading

174-Relating to insurance and insurance contracts

Went to second reading

273-Providing form of ballot in elections for incurring of indebtedness

Went to third reading

286-Relating to retirement benefits of supreme and superior court judges and their widows

Signed by Governor Langlie

291-Relating to penalties for the operation of over legal weight motor vehicles

Went to first reading

313-Prescribing method of making ratable reductions in payments of public assistance

Signed by Governor Langlie

359-Increasing amount of money recoverable in small claims departments of justice courts, fixing time for filing claims and limiting jurisdiction

Went to third reading

536-Re-establishing tideland monuments in certain cities, and making an appropriation

Went to first reading

### **Leadership, Positions & Appointments:**

### **Sources:**

#### Articles:

- Robinson, Herb, “Like Father, Like Daughter,” *The Seattle Times*, January 11, 1951
- Spitzer, Judith, “Women’s History Month Spotlight,” *The Daily World*, March 19, 2000, <http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2000/03/19/export15798.txt>
- Spitzer, Judith, “Gladys Phillips, inspirational attorney, dies,” *The Daily World*, April 1, 2000, <http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2000/04/01/export13099.txt>
- “Gladys and Joe,” *The Daily World*, April 1, 2000, <http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2000/04/01/export12958.txt>
- Hughes, John, “The Greatest Women in Harbor History?” *The Daily World*, August 8, 2004, <http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2004/08/08/export29826.txt>

#### Web:

- “Grays Harbor Community Foundation,” 2006, <http://www.gh-cf.org/>