

House Engrossed

Olivia Cajero Bedford; death resolution

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2040

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE OLIVIA CAJERO BEDFORD.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Arizona Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford, a longtime legislator and
2 community activist, passed away on February 9, 2022.

3 A proud daughter of the Old Pueblo, Olivia Cajero Bedford was born
4 on August 15, 1938. Her parents, Bernardo "Nayo" Cajero and Carmen
5 Cajero, were heavily involved in local politics and community causes, and
6 Olivia was raised to be an activist. When Bernardo ran to represent the
7 south side of Tucson in the legislature in 1966, Olivia was a key part of
8 his campaign and, after his election, she went on to help in his efforts
9 to provide free textbooks to Arizona students. When Bernardo passed and
10 Carmen succeeded him in 1973, Olivia continued this work and was proud to
11 help her mother eventually pass legislation providing free textbooks and
12 supporting the funding of the Arizona Cancer Center.

13 Olivia Cajero Bedford graduated from Tucson High School and later
14 received a degree from Pima Community College, experiences that later
15 informed her passionate advocacy for vocational education and community
16 colleges. She worked as a hair stylist and went on to start her own
17 salon, O'Hair International, which later grew to two locations in
18 Tucson. She eventually gained employment with the Arizona Office of
19 Tourism and worked in the private sector as well, with stints in sales at
20 two local institutions, the Smuggler's Inn and Old Tucson Studios.

21 Long active in politics as a member of the Democrats of Greater
22 Tucson, Olivia Cajero Bedford followed in her parents' footsteps by
23 running as the legislative candidate from the west side of Tucson in 2002.
24 She became known for her unique campaign style of standing on street
25 corners with her sign and purple truck, impeccably dressed and wearing a
26 wide-brimmed hat and gloves, waving at her constituents. She was easily
27 elected to four terms each in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

28 As a member of the Legislature, Olivia Cajero Bedford was known not
29 only for her fierce advocacy for her working-class constituency but also
30 for her efforts to find common ground with those on the opposite side of
31 the political aisle. This earned her universal respect and admiration
32 from her colleagues at the Capitol and leaders in her hometown of Tucson.

33 Senator Cajero Bedford will be greatly missed by her beloved
34 children, Travis Bedford and Tara Chipman, her son-in-law, David Chipman,
35 her grandchildren, Allison and Carson Chipman, her sister and best friend,
36 Monica Cajero Tardino, and her brother-in-law, Victor Tardino, as well as
37 by her many friends and colleagues in Tucson and around the State of
38 Arizona.

39 Therefore

40 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
41 the Senate concurring:

42 That the Members of the Legislature express their regret at the
43 passing of Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford and extend their deepest
44 sympathies to her surviving family members.

H.C.R. 2040

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE MARCH 8, 2022.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE SENATE MARCH 8, 2022.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MARCH 10, 2022.