

House Engrossed

Barbara Leff; death resolution

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2064

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE BARBARA LEFF.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 The honorable Barbara Leff, former state legislator and community
2 leader, passed away at the age of 78.

3 Born in New York, Barbara Leff graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a
4 bachelor's degree from Boston University and earned her master's degree in
5 social work from Simmons College.

6 Barbara moved to Arizona later in life where she found her calling
7 in public service. Her work experience included being a medical and
8 psychiatric social worker for the Veteran's Administration, a certified
9 community college instructor for the Maricopa County Community College
10 System and the owner of a small retail sporting goods business in
11 Scottsdale. She served as chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on
12 Arizona's Business Climate, served on the governor's Arizona Partnership
13 for the New Economy and was appointed to the governor's Leadership
14 Council, which was charged with evaluating Arizona's economy.

15 Barbara also had years of experience in the volunteer sector,
16 including running a program that resettles Russian refugees in the valley.
17 Her focus was to establish and operate a program to help the refugees
18 become successfully employed and self-sufficient. Barbara's work and
19 volunteer experiences led her to the world of politics. She volunteered
20 on Jon Kyl's first campaign for United States Senate, spending many hours
21 working on his behalf.

22 First elected to the Arizona Legislature in 1996, Barbara Leff
23 served in both the House of Representatives and the Senate representing
24 Paradise Valley. She was known for her work with HMO reform and on
25 economic development issues and for her staunch conservative values. Her
26 sponsorship of sweeping HMO reform legislation enabled Arizonans to
27 receive the health care they needed. She also sponsored legislation that
28 contributed to Arizona becoming a leader in cancer drug research and sped
29 up the time it takes to get drugs to patients who need them.

30 Outside of the health care world, Barbara also worked diligently to
31 make meaningful changes to the voting system in Arizona. Laws passed
32 through her sponsored legislation required the state to mail informational
33 pamphlets on ballot initiatives directly to voters' homes, which allowed
34 voters to receive the information they need to cast informed votes.

35 Barbara took a strong interest in legislation that would increase
36 Arizona's economic strength and vitality. In 2000, Barbara received
37 "Legislator of the Year" award from the National Republican Legislators
38 Association for her work on this and other critical issues in this state.

39 A loving wife, mother and grandmother, Barbara Leff is survived by
40 her husband, Dr. Edmund Leff, her children, Carolyn and Robert, and her
41 grandchildren, Josh and Ryan. She will be greatly missed by her family
42 and many friends.

1 Therefore

2 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
3 the Senate concurring:

4 That the Members of the Legislature express sincere regret at the
5 passing of the Honorable Barbara Leff and extend their deepest sympathies
6 to her family and many friends.