

Senator Wynona M. Lipman

As the first African-American woman elected to the New Jersey Senate, Senator Wynona M. Lipman of Essex County championed the causes of women, minorities, children and small businesses while serving in the Legislature. First elected in 1971, Senator Lipman was elected to the Senate seven times.

A Georgian by birth, Senator Lipman completed her higher education at Talladega College and Atlanta University. She earned a Rockefeller Grant to study at Columbia University where she received a Doctorate of Philosophy and was named a Fulbright Scholar to study at the Sorbonne in Paris. She held honorary Doctorates in Humane Letters and Laws from Kean University, Bloomfield College, Montclair State University and Ramapo College, and was an Associate Professor at Essex County College in the Division of Business and Political Science.

Senator Lipman's legislative responsibilities included: Senior Citizens, Veterans Affairs and Human Services, Budget and Appropriations committees; the New Jersey Supreme Court Domestic Violence Group; the Task Force on Women's Issues and Children's Services; the New Jersey International Trade Commission; the Governor's Advisory Council on AIDS; the New Jersey Task Force on Child and Abuse and Neglect; and the Senate Advisor to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Senator Lipman was a Board member of WorldSHARE and SHARE-NJ, a life member of both the National Council on Negro Women and the Newark Branch of the NAACP and a Coordinator of the New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus.

Senator Lipman was the recipient of numerous awards and citations, including:

- Human Rights Awards – State Division on Human Rights
- Distinguished Service Award in State Government – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- “Woman of the Year” Award – Ironbound Manufacturers Association (1984)
- “Senator of the Year” Award – National Association of Industrial and Office Parks
- “Legislator of the Year” – New Jersey Art Pride (1992)
- Service Award for Educational Leadership – Essex County College
- Advocacy Awards – American Association of Affirmative Action, Essex Newark Legal Services, Office of Minority Business Enterprise.

Senator Lipman appeared in the 1983 edition of *Who's Who Among American Women* and was recognized as one of New Jersey's most powerful women by *New Jersey Monthly* magazine. The New Jersey Brain Trust honored her by establishing the “Wynona M. Lipman Scholarship” at the Seton Hall Graduate School of Business.

She served as Director of the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders; Chair of the Senate State Government Committee; Chair of the Commission of Sex Discrimination in the Statutes; a member of the Board of Overseers of the Governor's Schools; and a Director of the Interracial Council of Business Opportunity.

Senator Lipman was the mother of Karyne Anne who graduated from Rutgers University Graduate School of Management. Her son William John died at the age of 24 and is commemorated by the scholarships at the Newark Community School of the Arts and Seton Hall University. Senator Lipman passed away on May 9, 1999.

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