



In memoriam

Gloria Blackwell

April 1, 1930 to July 8, 2010
California State PTA
President 1991-1993

Gloria Blackwell has been a child advocate and an active member of PTA since the 1960's. While her four children attended public school in Lakewood, California, she served on PTA executive boards and held the office of president at every unit level from elementary through high school. She became the Centinela Valley Council PTA president from 1967 to 1969 and served as Thirty-Third District PTA president from 1979 to 1981.

Gloria became part of the California State PTA Leadership Team in 1981 and served as the president of the California State PTA from 1991-1993. Her theme during her presidency was "PTA is where children come first." Convention resolutions adopted during the two-year term included: Hot Weather Standards in the School Setting, Alcohol Beverage Advertising that Targets Youth, Make Children First, Equalized Base Revenue Limit Funding, School Bus Safety, Paintball Gun Control, Parent/Community Action for Effective Schools, Television Literacy and Program Accountability, Tobacco Advertising that Targets Youth, Credential Requirement: Parent: Parent Involvement Component. The *Parents Empowering Parents Manual* was first published during the 1991-1993 term in English and Spanish. *PTA in California* included a column entitled "Movie Memos," providing reviews of newly released movies and videos for parents. Pete Wilson served as California's Governor, and Bill Honig as Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Gloria continued to serve on the California State PTA Board of Managers until 2006 and was a visible and popular presence at each annual convention. This very talented lady also served as National PTA Treasurer and Convention Chairman.

More recently, Gloria also served on the Thirty-Third District PTA Board of Directors in many key positions including parliamentarian and vice president of leadership. Her knowledge of PTA, parliamentary procedures and finance was an invaluable resource.

Gloria was very much like her personal heroine Eleanor Roosevelt: a lady who cared deeply about people, was ahead of her time and championed women's and children's rights. When her husband Ray was alive, they enjoyed square dancing. Gloria also volunteered at the American Cancer Society's Discovery Shop as cashier for the last sixteen years. She was a registered parliamentarian and a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and the California State Association of Parliamentarians.

Donations may be made to programs important to Gloria: the American Cancer Association and the California State PTA scholarship fund. Click here to [donate](#).