

REFERENCE TITLE: Ann Nichols; death resolution

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

## **HCR 2049**

Introduced by  
Representatives Longdon: Contreras L, Contreras P, Pawlik

A RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF DR. ANN WEAVER NICHOLS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Dr. Ann Weaver Nichols was born in 1942 and grew up in Los Angeles,  
2 California and attended John Marshall High School, originally thinking she  
3 would one day become a secretary. A good guidance counselor saw her  
4 potential and encouraged her to apply for a scholarship for first  
5 generation students, and she arrived at Stanford University as the first  
6 person in her family to attend college. She was active on campus with  
7 work study in the library and off campus in the Freedom Summer project,  
8 traveling to register voters on spring breaks and summers. Ann  
9 established a program to enable students to spend spring break in service,  
10 which eventually became institutionalized at Stanford and exists to this  
11 day as the Alternative Spring Break program. She spent a semester at the  
12 Stanford University campus in France and was active in the student YWCA.

13 While at Stanford, Ann attended Friends Quaker Meetings and met a  
14 young medical student, and the love of her life, Andy, in 1964, and the  
15 two married after their graduation in 1965. She and Andy joined the Peace  
16 Corps and spent two wonderful years in Peru where she taught community  
17 development.

18 Ann went on to earn both a masters and doctorate in social work from  
19 Columbia University. She continued to be involved in the YWCA and served  
20 on the national board from 1969-1982 and the World YWCA executive board in  
21 Geneva from 1975-1983, which culminated in Phoenix hosting the World YWCA  
22 General Assembly in 1987. She loved the global community of powerful  
23 women who were creating change.

24 After moving to Tucson in the fall of 1970, Ann joined the faculty  
25 of the Arizona State University (ASU) School of Social Work because there  
26 was no school of social work in Tucson. For years, with two small  
27 children in tow, she traveled up and down I-10 to teach classes in  
28 Tempe. She noticed that students were also commuting from Tucson to Tempe  
29 for classes, so in 1972 she began to teach a few courses in Tucson, even  
30 carrying course materials in the back of her station wagon. A full degree  
31 program was launched in 1978, and she became the first Director of the ASU  
32 School of Social Work program, Tucson component, and ran the program from  
33 1978-2008. The thousands of students who studied with her got to know the  
34 power of her teaching. Many of the programs started in Southern Arizona  
35 began as class assignments that were designed to identify community needs,  
36 resulting in the much-loved Information and Resource Center and the  
37 Coalition of Human Services.

38 Ann's academic research was broad but uniformly focused on the power  
39 of people to create change. She wrote about restorative justice, people  
40 making policy and the role of forgiveness in public policy. She presented  
41 to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) on working for change  
42 during tough times and on resilience and survival skills for activists.  
43 Her final major research and writing was on the macro-concepts of  
44 forgiveness and how to help nations transform after traumatic conflicts  
45 with possible forgiveness structures and exercises for organizations,

1 communities and nations. She was awarded Social Worker of the Year by  
2 NASW, was presented a lifetime achievement award by the ASU School of  
3 Social Work and won the national Jefferson Award. Most recently, in  
4 November 2022, she received the Advocacy Award from the Center for  
5 Economic Integrity in recognition of her work on kinship care.

6 Annually Ann would create an "alternative budget" that involved  
7 tracking all the bills in the Arizona State Legislature and used that  
8 information to explain to others how the legislature could actually fully  
9 fund human services as part of a balanced budget. In 1996 and 2000, she  
10 worked tirelessly to help Arizonans get healthcare by supporting the  
11 Healthy Arizona Initiative.

12 Using her sabbaticals to promote social work around the world, Ann  
13 twice worked in Uganda with the YWCA and developed a community-based  
14 organizing movement across that country. In 2008, she retired after 39  
15 years at ASU only to join the faculty at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation  
16 in Zambia teaching social work. For two years she helped update the  
17 national curriculum and taught community change. Her Zambian students in  
18 Kitwe are still running new programs that they created from taking part in  
19 her courses.

20 After returning to the United States and by her own personal  
21 experience, Ann developed a new passion—supporting grandparents raising  
22 grandchildren. She became the first Chair of the Arizona Grandparent  
23 Ambassadors, an advocacy network for grandparents who are raising their  
24 grandchildren and for other kinship network families. Among other more  
25 common advocacy awareness methods, every year the grandparents would write  
26 Valentine's Day cards and take cookies to the legislature to remind the  
27 members about the importance of kinship care families. In 2022, after  
28 seven years of lobbying, the legislature voted to provide additional  
29 support and funding for these families.

30 Ann pursued a life full of faith and passion. She and Andy were  
31 active members of First Christian Church as well as members of other faith  
32 organizations over the last 50 years. Her faith community had always been  
33 a source of strength and inspiration. She was the Chair of the  
34 International Social Workers and Spirituality Network, hosting four  
35 conferences that focused on social workers and on integrating faith  
36 practices with community needs. Ann spent years struggling against the  
37 death penalty. She wrote cards and letters to every single person on  
38 death row in Arizona since the 1990's and taught Alternatives to Violence  
39 courses in the federal prison, even co-authoring a textbook titled  
40 *Initiating Change in Organizations and Communities*.

41 Ann lost Andy in 2001, becoming a widow at 59 with three biological  
42 children and five adopted children. "Nana", as she was affectionately  
43 called, was known as the true matriarch of unconditional love and  
44 support. Ann is survived by her brother, Sam Weaver, and her children,  
45 Catherine, Michael and Miles Nichols, and Mardi, Nassau, Johnnary, Mexi

1 and Haley Fiallos, and her 18 grandchildren. She loved all her children  
2 but especially loved all of her grandchildren.

3 Therefore

4 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,  
5 the Senate concurring:

6 That the Members of the House of Representatives sincerely regret  
7 the passing of Dr. Ann Weaver Nichols and extend their sincere thoughts  
8 and condolences to her children, grandchildren and other surviving  
9 relatives.