

REFERENCE TITLE: Mel Hannah; death resolution

State of Arizona
Senate
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2023

SR 1004

Introduced by

Senators Miranda: Alston, Bennett, Borrelli, Burch, Carroll, Diaz,
Epstein, Fernandez, Gabaldón, Gonzales, Gowan, Hatathlie, Hernandez,
Kaiser, Kavanagh, Kerr, Marsh, Mendez, Mesnard, Rogers, Shope,
Sundareshan, Terán, Wadsack; Representatives Cano, Hernandez L, Quiñonez,
Salman

A RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF MEL J. HANNAH.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Mel J. Hannah, former Flagstaff City Council and Coconino County
2 Board of Supervisors member, passed away on January 8, 2023 at the age
3 of 84.

4 Born in Winslow, Arizona, Mr. Hannah graduated from Winslow High
5 School in 1956, where he received a music and football scholarship to
6 Eastern Arizona College (EAC). After two years at EAC, Mr. Hannah
7 attended Northern Arizona University, called Arizona State College (ASC)
8 at the time, for two years and played as a member of the ASC football
9 team.

10 After college, Mr. Hannah settled in Flagstaff, Arizona and worked
11 as a member of the United States Forest Service and as the assistant
12 director of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, where he was
13 involved in delivering services to low-income communities, communities of
14 color and rural communities.

15 In 1973, Mr. Hannah was elected as the first African American on the
16 Flagstaff City Council, where he served for over twelve years. After
17 leaving the Flagstaff City Council, Mr. Hannah was elected as the first
18 African American on the Coconino County Board of Supervisors and served
19 for six years.

20 During his time in Flagstaff, Mr. Hannah served as the president of
21 the Flagstaff Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of
22 Colored People (NAACP) and as vice chairman of the NAACP Arizona State
23 Conference. After moving to Phoenix, Mr. Hannah worked for Governor Fife
24 Symington as the assistant director of the Equal Opportunity Office and
25 later as the director of community outreach and job development for the
26 Greater Phoenix Urban League, which supports minority families and
27 underserved populations by providing connections to employment, housing,
28 job training, health care and education.

29 Despite the demands of his career, Mr. Hannah served as a true
30 servant leader and chaired many civic committees in order to make his
31 community and state a better place in which to live and work. He was
32 proud of his involvement with establishing the Arizona African American
33 Commission, eventually serving as a commissioner, and his service as
34 chairman of the Arizona African American Legislative Days for 21 years.

35 Mr. Hannah believed "there are two important days in your life. One
36 is the day you are born and the next one is why. And so to me, civic
37 engagement, civic engagement, civic engagement became the answer to that
38 why in terms of improving the quality of life for everyone. That to me
39 has been the reason I recognize my second day."

40 Therefore

41 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona:

42 That the Members of the Senate express sincere regret at the passing
43 of Mel J. Hannah and extend their deepest sympathies and condolences to
44 his family and many friends.