

Patricia F. Polos
1964-2003

Creator: Polos, Patricia F. (1922-2003)

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Administration Information

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Provenance: Donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Richard Polos on July 29, 2003 (WLA 2003.22).

Separations: Some duplicates were removed

See Also: Older Women's League Archives

Biographical History

Patricia Anne Fletcher was born on November 29, 1921, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to Florence and Walter Fletcher. She began taking classes at Indiana University, but in 1950 moved with her family to Chicago. On February 20, 1950, she married her second husband, Harry Polos, an attorney and nightclub owner who eventually became an Illinois judge. Together they had two children, Michael and Richard. Patricia graduated from Mundelein College in Chicago in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in social science and later took advanced work in urban studies at Roosevelt University.

Patricia became heavily involved in Illinois politics, in particular lobbying for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and later for senior citizens' issues. She served on the Community Mental Health Board of Chicago for thirty years and was appointed to the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois as a consultant in 1965. She later served as the president of ERA Illinois from 1988 until 2002 as well as for the Loop [Chicago] chapter of the Older Women's League until 1994. Patricia also worked on numerous political campaigns, including that of State Senator Esther Saperstein, for whom she worked as a legislative assistant from 1968 until 1972, and State Senator Howard Carroll, for whom she worked as an administrative assistant from 1980 until 1986.

In 1994, Patricia directed her attentions toward senior issues and lobbied on behalf of AARP. She served as a coordinator of Chicago Area Legislative Activities for AARP and a member of AARP's Volunteer Lobby Team. As a result of her efforts for AARP, the organization awarded her its Partnership for Excellence Award in 1999 and its Bright Star for Seniors Award in 2001. Patricia died on June 26, 2003, in her Chicago home.

Scope and Content

The Patricia F. Polos Papers consist of materials related to the fight to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois. Most of the items included are publications from the State of Illinois regarding the Equal Rights Amendment and the status of women.

Series 1: ERA Illinois, 1964-2003, Box 1

This series contains materials related to Patricia's lobbying efforts for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois and her time spent on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois. The materials include government publications on women, the commission's roster, and Patricia's obituary. The items are arranged chronologically.

Subjects:

ERA Illinois
Equal Rights Amendment
Polos, Patricia F.
Older Women's League
Senior citizens' issues
Women and politics
Women's issues

*Women and Leadership Archives
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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series 1: ERA Illinois, 1964-2003			
1		Illinois Commission on the Status of Women's <i>Report on the Status of Women</i>	1964
		Illinois Commission on the Status of Women's <i>Second Report on the Status of Women</i>	1967
		Illinois Commission on the Status of Women's <i>Third Report on the Status of Women</i>	1969
		<i>A Matter of Simple Justice: The Report of the President's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities</i>	1970
1		Illinois Commission on the Status of Women Roster	1972-1973
		Illinois Commission on the Status of Women's <i>Report and Recommendations</i>	1975
		<i>Final Report of the Illinois International Women's Year Conference</i>	1977
		Illinois Commission on the Status of Women's <i>Report and Recommendations</i>	1980
		The Citizens Council on Women's <i>Illinois Women Report</i>	1992
		<i>Illinois Issues</i>	1996
		<i>Final Report of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois</i>	1998
2		Obituary	2003