

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA STATE CAPITOL, SUITE 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA, 99801-1182
(907) 465-3707

Sponsor Statement Senate Joint Resolution 23, version B

“Expressing the support of the Alaska State Legislature for naming the mountain between Cedar Ridge and Hope Peak south of Anchorage after Gail Phillips.”

Born in Juneau and raised in Nome, the late Speaker of the House, Gail Phillips, was an Alaskan at heart. She left an impression on the political minds and philanthropic hearts of Alaskans.

In her lifetime, she spent years working for local airlines, teaching, serving on the board of Iditarod Trail Race Committee, owned a sporting goods shop, lead the Homer Chamber of Commerce, was elected to Homer’s City Council, served on the board of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, mined for gold on the Seward Peninsula and, of course, served in the Alaska House of Representatives.

She brought together urban republicans and rural democrats to form a coalition that she led as Speaker of the House for two consecutive terms. Following her political career, Gail worked as executive director of the Exxon-Valdez Oil Spill Trustees, and upon retirement she mentored future politicians and consulted for natural resource development in Alaska.

Upon her death, she was actively serving on the boards of the Iditarod Trail Race Foundation and the Alaska Aviation Museum. She was involved in her church, Anchor Park United Methodist and all her grandsons’ activities.

She was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt and grandmother. Her leadership was not limited to politics alone, her entire family benefitted from her guidance that she learned at the knee of Alaska State Territorial Representative, L.E. Ost, her grandfather.

Mountains are stable, strong and brave, Gail Phillips lived her life with these defining attributes.

Her family and I are now advocating for one of her favorite mountains on the Kenai Peninsula to be named in her honor.

Staff Contact: Brix Hahn
Brix.Hahn@akleg.gov
(907) 465-3880