



STATEMENT LEGISLATIVE BIPOC CAUCUS

For Immediate Release

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Statement from the BIPOC Caucus in Memory of Lawanda Manning

SALEM, OR—The BIPOC Caucus honors the life and legacy of our beloved Lawanda Manning, wife, partner, and anchor to Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D-Eugene).

Affectionately known as "Miss Lawanda," she was a force in the Capitol, combining an unmatched grace with power and beauty. She was not a woman who worked behind the scenes. She led out front as a leader in the community, chairing the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, helping to usher in a historic wave of progress in the arena of civil rights and social justice.

Miss Lawanda was her husband's rock and a mentor to all; a bright light to many staff, legislative members, and their families. She was committed to making the Capitol a welcoming space. Through her dedicated involvement in the Capitol community, her presence was felt by all who worked there.

"She served as my children's 'legislative grandma' when they visited the Capitol. They loved going to the Manning office to get an ice cream sandwich or jug of chocolate milk. She took them to lunch and let them hang out in their office. Miss Lawanda made them feel special, loved, and seen. She made the Capitol feel warm," said Rep. Janelle Bynum (D-Happy Valley).

"I am devastated. Lawanda was a force, creating an expectation that you would do your best because she had confidence in the right thing being done. My heart goes out to Senator Manning and his family. A profound loss," said Sen. Lew Frederick (D-N/NE Portland).

The BIPOC Caucus mourns the loss of an angel. Her legacy is built upon her steadfast devotion to progress, and the unwavering love she gave to the many lives she touched. Miss Lawanda is irreplaceable and will be deeply missed.

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