

STATE OF DELAWARE

STATE TREASURER



MARY JORNLIN
for
STATE TREASURER

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People of Delaware
Financial Responsibility and Common Sense (¢)
Mary Jorlin
CANDIDATE FOR STATE TREASURER



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- ★ Someone who
can get things done

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Posted: Aug. 17, 2007

MARY JORNLIN THEISEN, NEW CASTLE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, 1927-2007By Celia Cohen
Grapevine Political Writer

Mary Jornlin Theisen, a stately and gracious figure who was the first woman elected New Castle County executive and restored dignity to the office after a scandal, died Friday at the age of 80 at her home in Greenville.

Mary Jornlin -- as she was known throughout her political career -- was distinguished by her calming composure in the presence of potential calamity, whether it was the public maelstrom of being the county executive during school desegregation or the private crucible of carrying on with six children when her husband, state Rep. Francis Jornlin, died of a heart attack.

Jornlin, a Republican, was a pioneer in politics, elected in the 1970s when women in high office were still a rarity. She broke the stereotype that the top official of the county with its focus on public works be male and bore the sting of Ralph S. Moyed, a political columnist who belittled her in print as the "county executrix."

In addition to her election in 1976 to the county post, Jornlin was a two-term state treasurer, winning the office in 1972 and 1974, before it was converted in 1982 to a four-year term.

"She was just a grand, grand lady," said Donald R. Kirtley, who served as the Republican suburban county chairman at the time Jornlin ran for county executive and was instrumental in persuading her to do it. "When she walked into a room, things changed. People looked. She was close to six feet tall and very handsome. She had a pleasant manner, and she could work a room."

"Mary Jornlin Theisen was a dear friend and a compassionate, community-minded person who loved New Castle County and Delaware," said U.S. Rep. Michael N. Castle, the state's highest-ranking Republican. "I will miss her friendship and her smile."

Long before the days of Bill and Hillary Clinton or Bob and Elizabeth Dole, Jornlin was half of an early power couple in Delaware politics. She was the state treasurer, and her husband Francis was a state legislator, and the Republican Party thought she could go far.

Her life was jolted by her husband's sudden death in 1975, but she still was determined to stay in politics. She thought about running for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976 but was talked out of it by Republican officials -- partly for her interest and partly for their own political interest.

They persuaded her she would be better off running for county executive because it would keep her, newly widowed with all those children, closer to home, but it also spared the party a primary for the congressional seat against Thomas B. Evans Jr., a former co-chairman of the Republican National Committee. It cleared the way for Evans to win.

"Too many children, too many problems," Jornlin said in a 1998 interview, explaining why she did not run for the Congress.

As the candidate for county executive, immaculate in appearance and sympathetic because of her personal tragedy, Jornlin was an antidote for scandal and sour times. The country was just two years beyond the presidential disgrace of Richard Nixon and Watergate, and the county was recovering from a federal corruption investigation that led to the removal and jailing of County Executive Melvin A. Slawik Sr., a Democrat.

Late in the campaign, the Republicans realized that the authority of the acting county executive who replaced Slawik would expire on Election Night at midnight. The new county executive would assume office immediately.

Jornlin won and was sworn in with no time for a transition. She telephoned Don Kirtley with the classic candidate question, "OK, genius, what do we do now?"

What Jornlin did was clean up the county. She also worked with Republican Gov. Pierre S. "Pete" du Pont and Wilmington Democratic Mayor William T. McLaughlin, both also elected in 1976, to ensure that the much-resented, court-ordered desegregation of the northern New Castle County public schools was peaceful -- which was not a sure thing.

Jornlin took her stand through the county tax bills, according to Kirtley. Then as now, the county collected the school taxes. It sent out one bill for both the county and school taxes, and there was discussion about separating them to divorce the county politicians from the sulfurous school situation, but Jornlin said no.

"Mary decided we would just let that alone and not stir the pot," Kirtley said.

After that single term, Jornlin left politics. She went to work at Hercules, the chemical company, and remarried, wedding Vincent A. Theisen, a prominent attorney who predeceased her.

Jornlin had done her part for public life -- more than her part, really.

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BUCKSON
should be
Governor**

**and with
your help
he will be.**



**and with
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he will be.**



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a leader with candor, vigor, and
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Senator Bill Hart, Chairman
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David P. Buckson

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

David Penrose Buckson (born July 25, 1920) is an American lawyer and politician from Camden, in Kent County, Delaware. He is a veteran of World War II and a member of the Republican Party, who served as the 15th Lieutenant Governor of Delaware, the 63rd Governor of Delaware and the 37th Attorney General of Delaware.

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Early life and family

Buckson was born at Townsend, Delaware, son of Leon and Margaret Hutchison Buckson. He first married Betty Savin in 1945 with whom he had two children, Deborah Gray and Brian Roth. His second wife was Patricia Maloney, whom he married in 1962, and with whom he had four children, Marlee, David, Eric and Kent. They were members of the Methodist Church. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1941 with a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. During World War II Buckson served in the South Pacific and attained the rank of major. Afterwards he resumed studies for a legal career, attending Dickinson College Law School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Lieutenant Governor of Delaware

In 1955 Buckson was appointed a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas. A year later, in 1956, he was elected

David Buckson



Buckson at the University of Delaware in 1941

Attorney General of Delaware

In office

January 15, 1963 – January 19, 1971

Governor Elbert Carvel

Preceded by Januar Bove

Succeeded by Laird Stabler

Governor of Delaware

In office

December 30, 1960 – January 17, 1961

Preceded by Caleb Boggs

Succeeded by Elbert Carvel

Lieutenant Governor of Delaware

In office

January 15, 1957 – December 30, 1960

Governor Caleb Boggs

Preceded by John Rollins

Succeeded by Eugene Lamot

Personal details

Born July 25, 1920
Townsend, Delaware, U.S.

Lieutenant Governor, defeating Vernon Derrickson. He served one term from January 15, 1957 to December 30, 1960. At the end of his term, in 1960, he sought the Republican Party nomination for Governor, but lost it to John W. Rollins. However, he became Governor upon the resignation of Governor J. Caleb Boggs, who left to start his first U.S. Senate term, and served the remaining 18 days of Boggs' second term.

Political party	Republican
Spouse(s)	Betty Savin Patricia Maloney
Alma mater	University of Delaware, Newark Pennsylvania State University, Carlisle

Professional and political career

In 1962, Buckson was elected Delaware State Attorney General and served two terms, from January 15, 1963 until January 19, 1971. He was a candidate for Governor again in 1964, when he lost to Democratic former Chief Justice Charles L. Terry, Jr., and finally in 1972, when he failed to receive the Republican nomination.

Buckson was later appointed by Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt to be a Judge in the Family Court of Delaware where he earned a reputation for dispatching justice in the most efficient, judicious, and evenhanded manner.

Buckson was the first Delaware attorney to have offices in more than one county. He is widely recognized to have been the founder of Dover Downs, a volunteer fireman, decorated veteran and officer of World War II and Commander of a National Guard unit. He has also been City Solicitor for the Delaware municipalities of Newark, Middletown, Townsend, Smyrna, Clayton, and Dover, all at the same time.

Almanac

Elections are held the first Tuesday after November 1. The Lieutenant Governor and State Attorney General take office the third Tuesday of January and both have four-year terms, filling the Governor office when it was vacated.

Delaware General Assembly <div>(session while Governor)</div>					
Year	Assembly	Senate Majority	President <div><i>pro tempore</i></div>	House Majority	Speaker
1961	120th	Democratic	Allen J. Cook	Democratic	Sherman W. Tribbitt

Public Offices					
Office	Type	Location	Began office	Ended office	notes
Lt. Governor	Executive	Dover	January 15, 1957	December 30, 1960	Delaware
Governor	Executive	Dover	December 30, 1960	January 17, 1961	Delaware
Attorney General	Executive	Dover	January 15, 1963	January 17, 1967	Delaware
Attorney General	Executive	Dover	January 17, 1967	January 19, 1971	Delaware

Election results										
Year	Office	Election	Subject	Party	Votes	%	Opponent	Party	Votes	%
1956	Lt. Governor	General	David P. Buckson	Republican	92,254	52%	Vernon B. Derrickson	Democratic	81,121	48%
1962	Attorney General	General	David P. Buckson	Republican	77,666	51%	John Biggs, III	Democratic	75,064	49%
1964	Governor	General	David P. Buckson	Republican	97,374	49%	Charles L. Terry, Jr.	Democratic	102,797	51%
1966	Attorney General	General	David P. Buckson	Republican	96,595	59%	Sidney Balick	Democratic	66,848	41%
1972	Governor	Primary	David P. Buckson	Republican	20,138	46%	Russell W. Peterson	Republican	23,929	54%

References

- Cohen, Celia (2002). *Only in Delaware, Politics and Politicians in the First State*. Newark, Delaware: Grapevine Publishing.
- Davis, Ned (2000). *Charles L. Terry*. Wilmington, Delaware: Delaware Heritage Press. OCLC 47186751 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/47186751>).
- Martin, Roger A. (1984). *History of Delaware Through its Governors*. Wilmington, Delaware: McClafferty Press.

Images

- Hall of Governors Portrait Gallery; (<http://www.state.de.us/research/Tour/information/Governors/govs-40.shtml>) *Portrait courtesy of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Dover.*

External links

- Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States (<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.29fab9fb4add37305ddcbbeb501010a0>)

/?vgnextoid=5c8b224971c81010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD&
vgnextchannel=e449a0ca9e3f1010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD)

- Delaware's Governors (<http://www.russpickett.com/history/delgov5.htm#buckson>)
- The Political Graveyard (<http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/buckrop-buel.html#RKD0H615O>)
- Delaware Historical Society; website (<http://www.hsd.org/>); 505 North Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801; (302) 655-7161
- University of Delaware; Library website (<http://www.lib.udel.edu/>); 181 South College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19717; (302) 831-2965

Political offices		
Preceded by John Rollins	Lieutenant Governor of Delaware 1957–1960	Succeeded by Eugene Lammot
Preceded by Caleb Boggs	Governor of Delaware 1960–1961	Succeeded by Elbert Carvel
Party political offices		
Preceded by John Rollins	Republican nominee for Governor of Delaware 1964	Succeeded by Russell Peterson
Legal offices		
Preceded by Januar Bove	Attorney General of Delaware 1963–1971	Succeeded by Laird Stabler

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Categories: 1920 births | American Methodists | American military personnel of World War II

Delaware Attorneys General | Delaware Court of Common Pleas judges | Delaware lawyers

Delaware Republicans | Governors of Delaware | Lieutenant Governors of Delaware | Living people

People from Kent County, Delaware | Republican Party state governors of the United States

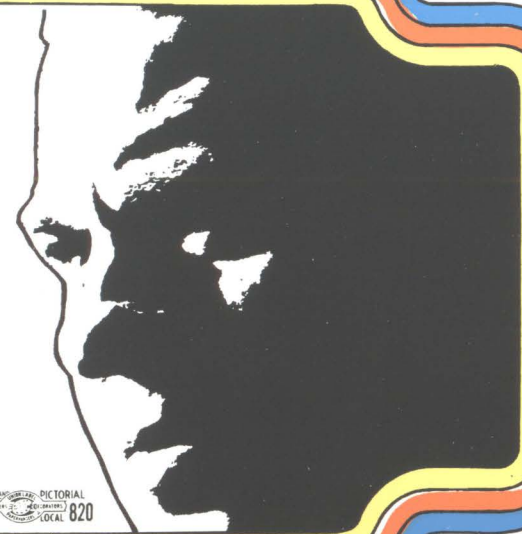
University of Delaware alumni

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