

1999 Hall of Fame Inductee

Sara “Sue” (Hirsch) Shear

Class of 1936

Awarded posthumously

The late Sue Shear majored in political science at Washington University. Shear was elected and served an amazing 12 terms as a Missouri State Representative from the 83rd legislative District.

Over the years, Shear served on a number of committees including the State’s Budget Committee, the Child Youth and Family Services Committee, the Higher Education Committee, and the Human Services Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Shear chaired the House and Senate Statutory Joint Committee on Correctional Institutions and served as Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Committee on Education and Public Safety

Known as a woman’s advocate, Shear was a member of the League of Women Voters, Women’s Political Caucus, and the National Council of Jewish Women. While a State Representative, she received numerous awards, which highlighted her commitment to women’s issues, youth, and the community. In 1993, she earned the Women of Achievement Award for the Greater St. Louis Area, the Missouri Bar Association’s award for outstanding service to the State and improvement of the law, and Annual Judicial Conference honors for providing support to a strong and vital judiciary in Missouri.

Shear’s latest award was an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Missouri St. Louis. There exists today a “Sue Shear Young Women in Leadership Award” at University City High School, and she has been made an honorary member of the school’s National Honor Society.

Sue Shear married Harry Shear in 1939. They had three children. Shear died on November 15, 1998.



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