Gov. Perry Orders Flags at Half-Staff In Memory of Rep. Glenda Dawson

Thursday, September 14, 2006 • Press Release

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry has ordered Texas flags to be flown at half-staff in memory of State Rep. Glenda Dawson on the day of her funeral, Friday, Sept. 15, 2006.

“We will lower our flags at half-staff in remembrance of an influential leader whose entire professional career was dedicated to public service, whether as a teacher, community organizer or State Representative,” Perry said. “Our thoughts and prayers are with Glenda’s family as they face such a great loss.”

The governor’s directive applies to all Texas state flags. Texas flags will be at half-staff on the state Capitol Building and on flag displays in the Capitol Complex, and upon all public buildings, grounds, and facilities throughout the state from sunrise to sunset on Friday, Sept. 15, 2006.

Individuals, businesses, municipalities, counties, and other political subdivisions are encouraged to fly the flag at half-staff for the same length of time as a sign of respect.
Gov. Rick Perry's Remarks at Glenda Dawson's Funeral Service

*Note - Gov. Perry frequently departs from prepared remarks.
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As we gather here today, we mourn the loss of a trusted public servant, a woman each of us called friend and a special few called family, and a precious soul who was a leading light in a world often permeated by darkness. Glenda Dawson represented everything that is right about this life. Her faith was unshakeable, a fountain of life that sprung eternal. Her purpose was about serving causes greater than self, as a teacher, a legislator and as a mother. And she lived by the adage, “to whom much is given much is required.”

Perhaps she learned that from the sacrificial act of her younger sister, Diane, who gave up her own kidney so Glenda could experience 19 precious years without dialysis. She learned an important truth that so many never do: and that is our blessings are never made full until shared with others. At the end of the day, it’s not she who has the most toys, but the most joy, who wins.

Glenda Dawson lived life with joy and purpose. And most of all, with love. To have known her whether for 20 minutes or 20 years, was to have known someone with love in her heart.

Glenda Dawson’s life is to be celebrated and not merely mourned. She was unique, and it is not that often that we get the opportunity to gather in remembrance of a life lived so well. As we say goodbye today, I can’t help but think of how proud she was the day her top legislative priority was signed into law, the DEAR Program to create a statewide organ donation registry and organ donation education programs. This program is a lasting gift that Glenda has given us, and because of it, even in her absence, she continues to be a fountain of life.

To those who will miss her most- her immediate family- I want to just offer these words of encouragement: your grief today is great, but your memories of her will last a lifetime. And they will be treasured images because she live a life of love, and leaves a legacy of love. May God bless her, and bless you all.

http://governor.state.tx.us/news/speech/10394/