

DIANE BILYEU
DISTRICT 29
BANNOCK COUNTY

HOME EMAIL
bilyeu1@cableone.net



OFFICE ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0081
(208) 332-1348
dbilyeu@senate.idaho.gov

Idaho State Senate SENATOR DIANE BILYEU

For immediate release – Wednesday, February 29th

Senator Diane Bilyeu will not seek re-election in the legislature

BOISE - Senator Diane Bilyeu of District 29 has announced that after three consecutive terms in the Senate, she will not seek re-election. Bilyeu previously served as a senator from 1968 to 1970. In her four terms in the legislature, Bilyeu was a strong leader on education, job creation, budgeting, and veterans and sportsman's issues. She advocated tirelessly on behalf of Idahoans who rely on critical programs such as Medicaid and mental health services to maintain their quality of life.

It was Senator Bilyeu's interest in children's education that led her to become politically active. Less than one year after graduating from Idaho State University with a B.A. in Theatre & Speech, she ran for and was elected to the Idaho State Senate. During her first term, she was an active member of the Senate Education Committee and pushed for education improvements and funding. This work would lead to her appointment to the Idaho State Board of Education where she served for 10 years, several as president and chair of the finance committee. Idaho State University would later honor her with an honorary doctorate degree for her dedication to education.

Diane was married to the late Charles 'Chick' Bilyeu after they met at Idaho State University. Chick Bilyeu would later represent Bannock County in the same Senate seat for 24 years where he, like his wife, became an icon around the Capitol. Chick was also a professor at ISU for over 20 years. During that time, both Diane and Chick were extremely active in the Pocatello performing arts community, producing a summer theatre called "Bilyeu's Tent Theatre" for many years. In 2005, the Bilyeu's were honored for their work in education and performing arts by having the proscenium theatre at ISU renamed the "Diane and Chick Bilyeu Theatre." Diane still performs whenever possible.

Diane Bilyeu returned to the Senate in 2006 and was subsequently re-elected in 2008 and 2010. She currently serves on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, the Local Government & Taxation Committee, and the Transportation Committee. She has also served as a member of the Economic Outlook and Revenue Assessment Committee. She leaves the Senate with a legacy of great respect and leadership on the issues most important to her and her constituents. She will continue to call Pocatello home and stay involved in the many issues on which she has worked over the years. She is also finishing her second book, "A Conversation with Shakespeare," which will be published later this year. Most importantly, Diane plans to spend more time with her family, including her three children, Brigette, Clark and Valencia and her eight grandchildren.

###

For more information, contact:

Senator Diane Bilyeu
dbilyeu@senate.idaho.gov
208-332-1348