

A native Prince Georgian, Bea was born in Brandywine and was a student in the Prince George's County public school system. She attended Bowie State University, where she majored in English and education. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she became a teacher in the county school system, followed by reading specialist and helping teacher. She completed graduate studies at George Washington University, where she received master's degrees in reading and administration and supervision, and a doctorate in educational research and statistics.

While attending graduate school and raising her daughter, Bea tutored children and adults who needed to strengthen their reading and English skills. She left the school system to teach at Prince

BEATRICE "BEA" P. TIGNOR

Teacher and Elected Official, 1940-



George's Community College, where she also has served as department chair of educational development. In addition, she has been an adjunct faculty member at George Washington University and Bowie State University, where she has taught educational research and statistics.

In 1990, Bea was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, where she served on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. She also was appointed to the Personnel Committee, the County Affairs Committee and the Education Subcommittee, serving as vice chair on the latter two. She served on the conference committee for the Maryland Scholarship Bill and helped craft the bill's final language. Her hard work as a freshman delegate earned her the Delegate of the Year Award.

Unanimously appointed to the State Senate in 1993 to fill a vacated post, Bea was assigned to the Budget and Taxation Committee and the Capital Budget Committee. Her diligent efforts on behalf of her constituents enabled her to win approval of funds for the expansion of Walker Mill

Regional Park as well as for programs for people with disabilities. She consistently has sought increased state funding for education in Prince George's County, has been a leading pro-choice advocate, and has worked for a ban on assault weapons.

Bea's dedicated service earned her the Legislator of the Year and Senator of the Year awards. Her work on behalf of municipalities earned her the Maryland Municipal League Appreciation Award.

Civic and professional memberships have included: the Prince George's Alliance of Black Elected Officials, the Maryland Women's Caucus, the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, the Prince George's Women's Political Caucus, the National Conference of State Legislators, and Women in Legislative Lobbying. She has been a board member of the Association for Retarded Citizens, the Samaritans, the American Red Cross, and the Dr. Benjamin Mays Research Center. Other memberships include the National Council of Negro Women, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the National Council of Alumni Associations, and the Bowie State University Alumni Association. Bea also was elected as an advisory member of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and was appointed to the Governor's Commission on Equity in Educational Funding, as well as the State Commission on Psychiatric Hospitals.

Her community service has earned her many awards, including Educator of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Alumna of the Year, and the National Association for Educational Opportunities Presidential Award. In 1990, she was honored as a Prince Georgian of the Year by County Executive Parris Glendening and the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce. ♣

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