

Lyn Shaw-Hilfenhaus is a lifelong resident of the San Fernando Valley whose father was a union carpenter and mother represented engineers and scientists at Lockheed Martin. From an early age, the importance of public service was instilled in her as well as the importance of standing up for vulnerable people and those less fortunate. At about ten years old, she worked on her first presidential campaign helping George McGovern's in 1972. Though electorally unsuccessful, that experience helped inspire her to influence hundreds of elections across the country from presidential races, to congressional elections, to tight battles for school board.

Her interest in electoral politics led to her extensive involvement in the Democratic Party. She was a member of numerous Democratic clubs, started a few herself, served on the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley and held many leadership positions over the years. She also was very involved with the State party, having served on the Executive Board, the Rules Committee and as a delegate.

Her career led her down many fascinating public and private sector paths including extensive work with local non-profits. Lyn has always gone above and beyond for the causes that are important to her and served as the chair of the Women's Caucus of the California Democratic Party. Before joining Team Blumenfield, Lyn worked for Tierra Del Sol, a San Fernando Valley based non-profit serving people with Developmental Disabilities.

Lyn was one of Blumenfield's first hires after he was elected to the State Assembly. They had known each other for many years and she helped on his campaign. She has been a critical part of the team ever since and has helped shape his entire legislative agenda. As his District Director, she not only managed the district staff but created supportive family-like environment from which all could thrive individually and collectively.

During the Great Recession as California faced an unprecedented budget crisis, Blumenfield served as the Assembly Budget chair when essentially every state funded program was on the chopping block. Lyn worked tirelessly with Blumenfield to continue funding programs for the developmentally disabled community and helped author AB 1415 which prevented Adult Day Health Care programs from being eliminated. Additionally, she helped shepherd SB 468, which was signed by Governor Brown, creating a statewide Self-Determination Program that offered people with developmental disabilities a choice and control over the services and support they receive. Locally, she helped push the office to hire people with developmental disabilities.

When Blumenfield was sworn in as a City Councilmember, Lyn continued to serve the West Valley as his District Chief of Staff. In this role, she led his field staff in every aspect, including expanding community outreach, ensuring city services, and helping the West Valley get its fair share of resources. She is beloved by the community and on a first name basis with every non-profit leader in the area. She is not only accessible, but has been a proactive leader often solving issues before they become problems.

JAN 15 2019

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For more than a year she has been valiantly battling pancreatic cancer. Her loving husband Jim Hilfenhaus has been steadfastly by her side along with their pugs Lily and Otis. Her extended family- Team Blumenfield- use the question, "what would Lyn do?," to help solve problems in her absence.

From ensuring a better future for people with developmental disabilities, to being a lifelong advocate for women's rights, to devoting her life to helping those who need it most, Lyn Shaw-Hilfenhaus has made an indelible impact on this community as well as every person who's lucky enough to call her a friend.

In recognition of her decades of service to the people of the San Fernando Valley, the City of Los Angeles, and the State of California, the community room of the West Valley Municipal Center will be dedicated to Lyn Shaw-Hilfenhaus.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Community Room located in the West Valley Municipal Building at 19040 Vanowen Street, Reseda, 91335 be named the "Lyn Shaw-Hilfenhaus Community Room."


PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:


GIL CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:


PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

ORIGINAL