

CRISTINE
SWANSON
WILSON
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MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Our mission:

leadership potential support and encouragement
To foster the professional development and leadership potential of non-traditional female law students by providing financial support and encouragement to those who demonstrate a commitment to public service and act as advocates for the equality of all people.

...had fate not been against her, she would have been an outstanding advocate of American law for all people equally...her efforts and her dedication can serve as a model to others...

—Robert D. Ray

...she was an articulate spokesperson for Iowa women in many different forms...

—Roxanne Conlin

...I have often wondered what she would have gone on to do...but she left her mark. She will never be forgotten for a long, long time...

—Margaret Swanson

Cristine Swanson Wilson was a visionary who accomplished much during her brief but distinguished life. She was not only a mother, school teacher, and law student, but also a champion of equality and justice for women. Cristine died in 1991, following a 14-year coma caused by a car accident when she was 31 years old.

Cristine was a founding member of the Iowa Women's Political Caucus and the first woman to lead the Polk County Republican Party's platform committee. In addition, she was appointed the first chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women.

Today, Iowans benefit from Cristine's leadership in:

- Removal of discrimination against women from business and insurance policies
- Recognition of the economic contribution of homemakers
- Creation of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame
- Use of gender-neutral language throughout the Iowa Code and textbooks
- Elimination of discrimination from state laws regarding education, housing, inheritance taxes
- Consideration of women for gubernatorial appointments
- Elimination of the corroboration requirement for the crime of rape

To honor Cristine, the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice was established in 1982. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1989. Her remarkable achievements have contributed to Iowa's recognition as a state characterized by equality and justice.

LAW of Polk County, Inc. is proud to remember Cristine by providing the Cristine Swanson Wilson Memorial Scholarship to non-traditional female law students who are committed to public service and act as advocates for the equality of all people.



Cristine Wilson two weeks before the accident with daughter Sarah.



To contribute, make check payable to: CSW Memorial Scholarship
Mail to: LAW of Polk County, Inc., attn: scholarship, P.O. Box 65502, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265