

GREG BROWNING

Senator Michele Reynolds

January 28, 2025

Senate Building

1 Capitol Square, First Floor 128

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Reynolds,

I am writing in support of your legislation, Senate Bill 14, that calls for the creation of the Jo Ann Davidson Day.

Jo Ann was a friend and colleague who cared deeply about making government better and more effective in serving the citizens of Ohio. In being herself, she became a role model to many in and out of government. In her local, state and national roles, Jo Ann understood the importance of building trust and creating and maintaining relationships. In doing this, her intelligence and integrity always shown through. So did her hard work and, through this work, her expertise in the details of complex policy issues, ranging from the state budget to school funding to business development and regulation.

In everyday parlance, Jo Ann was the “real deal.” She genuinely cared about her commitments and about working hard to advance them. A member of the greatest generation, she grew up and began her career in Findlay, Ohio during a time when women rarely served in state elective office, let alone becoming legislative leaders. It wasn’t easy, but anyone who knew Jo Ann knew she earned her successes and then earned them again and again, including, of course, her role as the first woman in Ohio history to become Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives.


Jo Ann was a classic version of a hardworking “all around” student and then colleague and then leader. She was good at both mastering detail and at understanding context and the “big picture.” This was true for both policy and politics. Jo Ann was a master of the game. A real competitor, she understood that what mattered most was not the game, but the reasons why the game mattered so much: the importance of effective, high integrity public service and public leaders.

Jo Ann was a practical person with a moral compass. And she wanted to pass the lessons that came out of her work and her philosophy to the next generation. It’s why she created the Jo Ann Davidson Leadership Institute to help educate women interested in public service. This work was a central part of her post-elective office years – an active phase of

her life that included consulting and board appointments, but never included retirement until, as it does with us all, age caught up with her and she retired at the age of 95.

I recount Jo Ann's experiences and accomplishments not because they are unknown, but because they are an extraordinary testament to her commitment to Ohio. She embodied the best of what it is to be a good leader, a good citizen and a good friend. In honoring Jo Ann with the Jo Ann Davidson Day, Ohio will be honoring and encouraging what is best about ourselves, our communities and our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Browning". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Greg Browning

(Former Director, Ohio Office of Budget and
Management, 1991-1998)