

# Proclamation

The people of Hawai‘i mourn the loss Tom Gill, former state representative, U.S. Congressman and lieutenant governor, who passed away on June 3, 2009 at the age of 87.

Former Lt. Governor Gill dedicated his career to serving the people of Hawai‘i. During his long career, he served as an elected official, civil servant and private attorney advocating social, political, economic and environmental reform.

After attending the University of Hawai‘i, he served in the Hawai‘i Territorial Guard from December 1941 to October 1942 and volunteered in the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. As a result of his infantry campaigns in New Guinea and in the Philippines, Gill was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. After receiving a law degree from the University of California School of Law, he returned to Hawai‘i and began a lengthy and successful political career.

From 1954–1958, he became the chairman of the O‘ahu County Democratic Committee. In 1957, Gill served as the administrative aide to the speaker of the Hawai‘i House of Representatives. In 1958, he was elected to office as 15<sup>th</sup> District representative to the 30<sup>th</sup> Territorial Legislature. Gill’s career took off the same year Hawai‘i became a state when, in 1959, he was elected to the first State of Hawai‘i Legislature, where he served as majority floor leader. For two years, starting in 1963, he served as a representative to the 88<sup>th</sup> Congress, before being elected to the post of lieutenant governor under Governor John Burns.


Remembered for his intellectual energy and acumen, the former lieutenant governor advocated for a just, open and sustainable society. During his term in the U.S. House of Representatives, he played an important role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and was the author of Title VI of the act, which prohibited discrimination against those in programs receiving federal financial assistance. His legacy as a progressive and tireless worker continues to inspire us today. Hawai‘i is a richer place because of dedicated leaders like Tom Gill, and he will be deeply missed. Our hearts and prayers go out to his wife Lois, sons Thomas Anthony, Eric, Ivan, Timothy and Gary, daughter Andrea, brother Lorin, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

With deep respect and gratitude, we honor the memory of

## TOM GILL

**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby order the lowering of the Hawai‘i State Flag to half-staff on all state and county buildings from sunrise to sunset on June 10, 2009, and encourage our residents and visitors to offer their condolences to the Gill family.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this eighth day of June 2009.

  
Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai‘i