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PASS THE WORD 
A PROJECT OF THE KENTUCKY ORAL HISTORY COMMISSION

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GEORGIA DAVIS POWERS (PUBLIC SERVANT)**



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LOUISVILLE — Georgia Davis Powers was born Oct. 19, 1923, in Springfield, the only daughter in a family of nine children. Powers and her family moved to Louisville, where she graduated from Central High School in 1940.

She became involved in Democratic Party politics, working on campaigns for General Assembly candidates and Edward Breathitt's 1963 gubernatorial campaign. She helped organize the 1964 March on Frankfort, became a personal friend of Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. and discovered the value of local and state politics in addressing poverty issues.

In 1967, Powers was elected to the Kentucky Senate from the West End district in Louisville. The first woman and the first person of color elected to Kentucky's Senate, she served for 21 years, sponsoring numerous bills prohibiting employment, sex and race discrimination. She also helped pass the state's fair housing law. After retiring from public office, Powers continued to work to eradicate poverty and promote education in the Commonwealth. She has an endowed chair at the University of Kentucky; a portion of I-264 is named for her.

The Kentucky Oral History Commission (KOHC), administered by the Kentucky Historical Society, is dedicated to supporting documentation of Kentucky's rich history along with the issues confronting its people. Pass the Word (passtheword.khs.gov) is an online database from the KOHC that facilitates discovery of more than 30,000 oral history interviews from Kentuckians in all 120 counties, located in more than 100 repositories across Kentucky.

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