

= Julian Carroll =

Julian Morton Carroll (born April 16 , 1931) is an American politician from the state of Kentucky . A Democrat , he is a member of the Kentucky Senate , representing Anderson , Franklin , Woodford , Gallatin and Owen counties . From 1974 to 1979 , he served as the 54th Governor of Kentucky , succeeding Wendell H. Ford , who resigned to accept a seat in the U.S. Senate . He was the first Kentucky governor from the state 's far @-@ western Jackson Purchase region , and his running mate Thelma Stovall was the first woman to be elected Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky .

After graduating from the University of Kentucky and spending three years as an Air Force lawyer , Carroll returned to McCracken County , Kentucky where he gained acclaim for leading a campaign to allow the Tennessee Valley Authority to provide low @-@ cost electricity to the county . He was elected to the first of five terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1962 and served as Speaker of that body from 1968 to 1970 . He ran for Lieutenant Governor in 1971 on an informal ticket with former Governor Bert T. Combs . Combs lost in the Democratic primary to Wendell Ford , but Carroll defeated his primary opponents and went on to win the general election . He was elevated to the governorship in 1974 due to Ford 's election to the Senate , and won a full term in his own right in 1975 .

As Governor , Carroll increased funding for public education and promoted the use of coal as a means of alleviating the 1973 energy crisis . He also oversaw a major reorganization of the state 's judicial system . Many natural and man @-@ made disasters occurred during his term in office , including the Great Blizzard of 1978 and the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire , leading to better safety practices and stricter law enforcement in the state . When Carroll left office , both he and his predecessor were under the cloud of an investigation for an alleged insurance kickback scheme , but Carroll was not convicted of any wrongdoing . In 2004 , he was elected to the Kentucky Senate . Re @-@ elected in 2008 and 2012 , his current term will expire in 2017 .

= = Early life = =

Julian Carroll was born in West Paducah , McCracken County , Kentucky on April 16 , 1931 . He was the third of eleven children born to Elvie B. " Buster " and Eva (Heady) Carroll . His father was a tenant farmer , but shortly after the Ohio River flood of 1937 , the family moved to Heath , Kentucky where Buster Carroll sold tractor implements and opened an automobile repair shop in 1940 . Through his early teenage years , Carroll lived with his grandparents to help care for an ailing grandfather .

In 1949 , Carroll was selected to represent Heath High School at Kentucky Boys State , a week @-@ long a civic affairs summer camp for high school seniors @-@ to @-@ be . Participants in the camp create a miniature state government based on their state 's actual government . At the camp , Carroll was elected governor of the miniature government . The following year , he graduated as salutatorian and student body president of Heath High School .

Carroll began dating Charlann Harting near the end of 1950 . In mid @-@ 1951 , they parted ways to attend college ? Harting , whose family was better off financially , at the University of Kentucky and Carroll at nearby Paducah Junior College . After their first year , Carroll and Harting decided to get married . The ceremony took place on July 22 , 1951 , and the couple eventually had four children ? Kenneth , Patrice , Bradley , and Ellyn . Ellyn , born June 27 , 1975 , was the first child born to a Kentucky First Family while they were residing in the Governor 's Mansion .

Carroll earned an Associate in Arts degree from Paducah Junior College in 1952 . That summer , the family moved to Lexington where Carroll matriculated to the University of Kentucky . He funded his further education working for the Fayette County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Office . In 1954 , he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science , and in 1956 , he earned a Bachelor of Laws degree .

While in college , Carroll had received training through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps . By graduation , he had risen to the rank of Commandant of Cadets , the highest rank of any student at the university . After graduation , he enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at

Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth , Texas . For three years , he served as an Air Force attorney , then returned to Paducah and joined the law firm of Reed , Scent , Reed , and Walton . He was active in civic affairs , including membership in the Jaycees and serving as charter president of the Paducah Optimists Club in 1962 . He was a frequent lay speaker in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church , and from 1966 to 1967 , served as moderator for the Kentucky Synod .

In January 1960 , a group of local businessmen approached Carroll about leading a campaign to allow the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to provide electricity to McCracken County . TVA could provide electricity at a much lower cost , but voters would first have to hold a public referendum on buying out Kentucky Utilities , the private power provider in the area . Carroll agreed to lead the campaign , and nine months later , voters approved the buyout by a three @-@ to @-@ one margin .

= = Political career = =

The TVA campaign had put Carroll squarely in the public eye in McCracken County , and in 1962 , he was elected to the first of five consecutive terms representing the county in the Kentucky House of Representatives . He was chosen Speaker of the House from 1968 through 1970 . In the 100 @-@ member House of Representatives , it was not uncommon for lobbyists to roam the floor freely , for members to bring their lunches to their desks , or for them to bring their friends and family members onto the floor during debate . Determined to bring a higher degree of decorum to the chamber 's proceedings , Carroll opened the 1968 legislative session with a single , powerful whack of his gavel . The gavel shattered , stunning the legislators . Carroll subsequently barred outsiders from the floor during debate and forbade eating in the chamber . Carroll shattered three more gavels during the legislative session ? he was finally given a sturdier one made of solid oak and formica ? but he brought order to the chamber 's proceedings . At the end of the session , a member of the opposing party declared from the floor " The decorum of this House has improved 100 percent ... I must compliment the present Speaker of this House for ... eliminating the abominable practices . Today every member has a right to speak ... without fear of interruption and catcalls or being shouted down . " The legislator 's compliment was followed by a standing ovation for Carroll .

Carroll had considered running for the U.S. Senate in 1968 , but dropped out of the race after just two weeks when he discovered that it would take well over \$ 100 @,@ 000 to run a competitive primary campaign . In 1971 , former governor Bert T. Combs sought a second term as governor and chose Carroll as his informal running mate . (The governor and lieutenant governor were elected separately at the time .) Combs , an Eastern Kentucky native , sought geographic balance for the ticket by selecting Carroll , from the far @-@ west Jackson Purchase . Combs said he would provide the needed financing , and Carroll agreed to enter the race .

Seven other Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor entered the race , the most formidable being sitting attorney general John B. Breckinridge . While Combs lost to Ford in the gubernatorial primary , Carroll won the separate primary for lieutenant governor , partly on the strength of the eastern Kentucky votes he gained from his association with Combs . Carroll went on to defeat Republican Jim Host in the general election for lieutenant governor . As lieutenant governor , Carroll chaired the Legislative Research Commission and the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors .

= = = Governor of Kentucky = = =

Governor Ford 's allies encouraged Carroll to run for the U.S. Senate in 1974 , but Carroll had already set his sights on the governorship . Instead , Ford ran for and won the Senate seat , and Carroll succeeded him as governor . In 1975 , he sought a full term in office and won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in a four @-@ way primary against Todd Hollenbach , Mary Louise Foust , and Robert McCreary Johnson .

In the general election , Carroll faced Republican Robert E. Gable , a coal company owner from central Kentucky . The main issue of the campaign was the imposition of desegregation busing on

the city of Louisville . Both candidates opposed the busing , but Gable did so more vehemently and criticized the sitting governor for not " doing something about it " . In a televised debate with Carroll , Gable insisted on using what he called a " truth bell " . Gable rang the bell every time that he perceived that Carroll was not telling the truth . Eventually , the moderator of the debate ordered Gable to put the bell away , and Gable 's credibility suffered in the eyes of voters . Carroll won the general election by a vote of 470 @,@ 159 to 277 @,@ 998 , representing a record margin of victory in the Kentucky governor 's race . He carried every congressional district including Jefferson County , where a Democrat had not won a race in twenty years . His running mate , Thelma Stovall , became the first woman elected lieutenant governor of Kentucky .

With considerable experience in the General Assembly ? first as Speaker of the House , and later presiding over the Kentucky Senate as lieutenant governor ? Carroll exercised a great deal of control over the proceedings of the legislature . One observer quipped " A cockroach couldn 't crawl across the Senate floor without an OK from the governor stamped on his back . " His reaction to criticism was often severe , prompting his political enemies to derisively refer to him as Emperor Julian . During the final year of Carroll 's term , Lieutenant Governor Stovall , who was left as acting governor when Carroll had left the state on business , called a special session of the legislature to enact a tax cut that Carroll opposed . The General Assembly passed the tax cut , partly in retaliation for the governor 's tight control of previous sessions .

Carroll was charged with implementing an amendment to the state constitution approved by voters in 1975 to drastically reorganize the state 's judicial system . The Kentucky Court of Appeals , the state 's court of last resort , was renamed the Kentucky Supreme Court , and a new Court of Appeals was created and interposed between the Supreme Court and the state 's circuit and district courts . The position of county judge was made a purely administrative position , and the office was renamed county judge / executive . Historian Lowell H. Harrison opined that the amendment made Kentucky 's legal system " a model for the nation . "

Improvements in public schools were the hallmark of Carroll 's term . Using money from a coal severance tax enacted by Ford 's administration and increased revenue from an improving economy , Carroll increased teacher salaries and eliminated fees for required classes . He strengthened the state 's Minimum Foundation Program and provided free textbooks . A School Building Authority was also created to help poor school districts construct new buildings . Vocational and special education were expanded under the Carroll administration , and a program for gifted and talented students was piloted . Consequently , Kentucky improved in most national educational benchmarks , including moving from forty @-@ sixth to thirty @-@ eighth nationally in teacher salaries .

Higher education did not fare as well under Carroll . He cut the proposed budget for the state 's Council on Higher Education by 40 percent . Because of the considerable political clout of the Golden Triangle (Lexington , Louisville and Covington) , the University of Kentucky , University of Louisville , and Northern Kentucky University were spared the more severe budget cuts imposed on the state 's regional universities .

As governor of the leading coal @-@ producing state in the nation , Carroll advocated the use of coal to alleviate the 1973 energy crisis . He was called to testify before several congressional committees and served as an energy adviser to President Jimmy Carter . At the state level , he created a department of energy and constructed " resource recovery roads " in the state 's coalfield regions . Among Carroll 's other accomplishments were the initiation of a grant program to support the arts and the expansion of the state park system . He was one of many who opposed the damming of the Red River , which would have flooded Red River Gorge . Carroll was a supporter of a lemon law (that sought to provide a remedy for purchasers of cars that failed to meet quality standards) that was defeated in the 1976 legislative session .

Carroll served as chairman of the National Governors Association in 1978 . He chaired the Association 's Natural Resources and Environmental Management Committee and served on its Technology Committee . He also served as the state 's co @-@ chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission . He received honorary degrees from the University of Kentucky , Morehead State University , Murray State University , and Eastern Kentucky University in Kentucky , and from Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate , Tennessee . He was named to the University of Kentucky

Alumni Association 's Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1975 .

Carroll 's tenure was plagued by disasters , both natural and man @-@ made . Flooding struck in the eastern part of the state and in the state capitol of Frankfort . Extreme cold gripped the entire state in 1977 and 1978 , including the Great Blizzard of 1978 . Two mine explosions in Letcher County killed 26 people , and the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire claimed 165 lives . Many of these disasters led to stricter enforcement of safety laws . Carroll formed the Department of Housing , Buildings , and Construction and strengthened the state fire marshal 's office .

Carroll 's credibility took a severe hit as a result of an investigation into an alleged insurance kickback scheme during the Ford administration and carrying on into his administration . When called before a grand jury in 1980 , Carroll invoked the Fifth Amendment . He was not convicted of any wrongdoing , but his first state Democratic Party chairman , Howard P. " Sonny " Hunt , was . The investigation also hurt commerce commissioner Terry McBrayer , Carroll 's choice for governor in 1979 . McBrayer finished third out of five candidates in the Democratic primary that year .

= = = Later political career = = =

After concluding his service as governor , Carroll resumed his law practice in Frankfort , Kentucky . Governor John Y. Brown , Jr. made him chairman of a non @-@ profit organization to fight drugs in 1983 . In 1987 , he unsuccessfully sought another term as governor , finishing fifth in the Democratic primary behind Lieutenant Governor Steve Beshear , former governor John Y. Brown , Jr . , Grady Stumbo , and the winner , Wallace G. Wilkinson . Carroll again returned to his Frankfort law practice . In 2001 , Kentucky 's Purchase Parkway was renamed the Julian M. Carroll Purchase Parkway . In 2003 , Carroll actively lobbied the General Assembly to legalize casino @-@ style gambling at the state 's horse racetracks .

= = = State Senate = = =

In 2004 , Carroll was elected to the Kentucky Senate from District 7 , defeating Harold Fletcher ? the older brother of then @-@ governor Ernie Fletcher ? by a wide margin . The district includes all or portions of Anderson , Fayette , Franklin , and Woodford counties . He made headlines in 2007 when he called on Fletcher 's lieutenant governor , Steve Pence , to resign for his disloyalty after Pence endorsed Anne Northup in the Republican gubernatorial primary rather than backing Fletcher 's re @-@ election bid . Pence refused to resign , citing an investigation of the administration 's hiring practices as his reason for refusing to endorse Fletcher . Fletcher won the Republican primary , but lost in the general election to Democrat Steve Beshear .

Carroll was re @-@ elected unopposed in 2008 . In advance of the 2011 legislative session , Carroll unsuccessfully sought to replace retired Senator Ed Whorley as Democratic floor leader in the State Senate , losing to Senator R. J. Palmer . Carroll blamed his contentious relationship with Senate President David L. Williams as the reason his colleagues were hesitant to choose him for the post . On November 6 , 2012 , he defeated Republican Frank Haynes to retain his seat for another four years .