May 14, 1932

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was May 14, 1932, the day Missouri’s first female, African-American Missouri senator was born.

Gwen Giles was born in Atlanta, GA. Her family moved to St. Louis three years later.

Giles’ political career started in 1968, when she was campaign manager for then-Cong. William Clay. Giles ran for the unexpired term of Franklin Payne nine years later, and won the election on Dec. 6. The following year, she ran for a full term, and that’s when her Missouri Senate career began. But, it would be short-lived, as Giles was then tabbed to head up the St. Louis City assessor’s office.

Sadly, Giles passed away in 1986, following a brief fight with lung cancer. She was only 53.

But, it all began when Missouri’s first African-American, female state senator was born on May 14, 1932, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: The State Historical Society of Missouri)