

# Supremes Co-Founder Mary Wilson Remembered

Music legend helped establish Motown sound

(AP) -- Mary Wilson, one of the original members of the Supremes, the 1960s group that helped establish the Motown sound and propelled Diana Ross to superstardom, died Monday. The cause was not immediately clear. She was 76.

Wilson died Monday night at her home in Nevada and the cause was not immediately clear, said publicist Jay Schwartz.

Wilson, Diana Ross and Florence Ballard made up the first successful configuration of The Supremes, Motown's first and most commercially successful girl group. Ballard was replaced by Cindy Birdsong in 1967, and Wilson stayed with the group until it was officially disbanded in 1977.

The group's first No. 1, million-selling song, "Where Did Our Love Go," was released June 17, 1964. Touring at the time, Wilson said there was a moment when she realized they had a hit song.

"I remember that instead of going home on the bus, we flew," she told The Associated Press in 2014. "That was our first plane ride. We flew home. We had really hit big."



Mary Wilson, founding member of The Supremes, Motown's first and most influential girls group, is pictured during a 2014 portrait session at Capitol Records in Los Angeles. Wilson died Monday at 76 years old. (AP photo).

It would be the first of five consecutive No. 1s, with "Baby Love," "Come See About Me," "Stop! In the Name of Love" and "Back in My Arms Again" following in quick succession. The Supremes also recorded the hit songs "You Can't Hurry Love," "Up the Ladder to the Roof" and "Love Child."

Ross tweeted on Tuesday, offering her condolences to Wilson's family. "I am reminded that each day is a gift," she said, writing "I have so many wonderful memories of our time together."

Berry Gordy, who founded the Detroit-based Motown Records, said he was "extremely shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of a major member of the Motown family, Mary Wilson of the Supremes." His statement Monday night, according to Variety, said "The Supremes were always known as the 'sweethearts of Motown.'"

Wilson, Ross and Ballard were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988.

Wilson, in a recent YouTube video posted Saturday, said she was excited to celebrate Black history month, her upcoming birthday (March 6) and teased fans with the announcement that Universal Music had plans to release some of her music.

## Attention, Multnomah County renters!

### Your eviction moratorium protections have changed

Starting February 1, 2021, Multnomah County renters will be covered by the Oregon statewide eviction moratorium, which protects tenants from eviction for nonpayment or without cause until June 30, 2021. The repayment grace period also ends on June 30. This means that renters will have until July 1, 2021, to pay back the money they owe.

### You must take action to stay protected

To be protected from eviction for nonpayment or eviction without cause, sign and return the "Declaration of Financial Hardship for Eviction Protection" form to your landlord stating that you are unable to afford your rent.

### Get the form

You can download the form at [multco.us/covid-eviction](https://multco.us/covid-eviction). You can also pick up a paper copy of the form at any Multnomah County Library location.

### Return the form soon

You can return the form to your landlord in person or by mail. You can also take a photo of the form and send it to your landlord by email or text message.

Renters are encouraged to submit the form to landlords as soon as possible. Although landlords are required to give their renters information about the moratorium protections with a copy of the declaration form, you are encouraged to submit the form even before receiving the notice.

Learn more at [multco.us/covid-eviction](https://multco.us/covid-eviction)



Rosa Parks is arrested in 1955 in Montgomery, Ala., after she refused to give up a seat on a bus reserved for white people. A year later, city officials were ordered to desegregate Montgomery's buses and Rosa Parks sealed her place in U.S. history.

## TriMet Honors Rosa Parks

Transit agency ushers in first annual Equity Day

TriMet held its first annual Rosa Parks Transit Equity Day last Thursday to honor the late civil rights leader's birthday and the agency's commitment to social justice.

No fares were collected on the date for all buses, MAX, WES

or LIFT. Transit partners Portland Streetcar and C-TRAN also did not collect fares to honor the woman who sealed her place in history in 1955 by refusing to give up a seat on a bus reserved for white people.

Rosa Parks was born on Feb. 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Ala. Her demonstration in segregated Montgomery, Ala., gave way to the Montgomery Bus Boycott

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