

Second Regular Session

Sixty-second General Assembly

LLS NO. M00-0151.01 Rebecca Hausmann

STATE OF COLORADO

BY REPRESENTATIVE Larson

HOUSE MEMORIAL 00-1001

101 MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE TOMMY NEAL.

1 WHEREAS, By the Will of Divine Providence, our beloved
2 former member, Tommy Neal, departed this life on May 27, 1999, at the
3 age of 77; and

4 WHEREAS, Former Representative Tommy Neal was born in El
5 Paso, Texas, in 1922, grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, and graduated
6 from high school there in 1939; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Neal graduated from Baylor
8 University then received a Master's Degree in History from Northwestern
9 University; and

10 WHEREAS, He served in the United States Army Air Corps in the
11 European Theater of Operations during World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, After the war, he moved to Durango, Colorado,
13 where he had a special way of connecting with his students while
14 teaching history and civics at Durango High School and Miller Junior
15 High School; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Neal worked as a sports writer at *The*
17 *Durango Herald* and co-owned the *Silverton Standard* newspaper in the
18 early 1960's; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Neal began his career as a public
20 servant as a staff assistant to United States Representative Wayne
21 Aspinall of Colorado; and

22 WHEREAS, He was appointed to the state legislature in December
23 of 1965 to fill the unexpired term of Representative R.E. O'Brien and was
24 elected to the House in 1966 and again in 1968; and

25 WHEREAS, As a member of the Colorado General Assembly,
26 Representative Neal served on the Agriculture and Livestock, Finance,

1 and Local Government committees and, according to former governor
2 John Vanderhoof, was known as a "good legislator" who was "... always
3 trying to work for a medium ground"; and

4 WHEREAS, Following his terms in the Colorado House of
5 Representatives, Representative Neal moved to Topeka, Kansas, where
6 he served as executive director of the commission that reorganized
7 Kansas state government; and

8 WHEREAS, After his return to Denver, Representative Neal
9 served as the Secretary of the state Democratic Party and later worked for
10 the Education Committee of the States; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1974, Representative Neal pursued the Democratic
12 nomination for lieutenant governor then continued his service to the state
13 with two terms on the State Board of Land Commissioners; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Neal spent the last 10 years of his
15 career working for the National Conference of State Legislators, where
16 he wrote a valuable textbook for high school students called "Lawmaking
17 and the Legislative Process" and where, before his retirement in 1998, he
18 was a specialist in campaign finance reform, worked on the legislative
19 management program, and was staff support for the legal services staff
20 section; now, therefore,

21 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second*
22 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

23 That in the death of Tommy Neal, the State of Colorado has lost
24 a valuable and beloved public servant, a man remembered by his
25 colleagues with fondness and respect, and a legislator who could "get
26 things done".

27 *Be It Further Resolved,* That we, the members of the Colorado
28 House of Representatives, honor Tommy Neal for his years of service and
29 many contributions to the people of the State of Colorado and do hereby
30 extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family.

31 *Be It Further Resolved,* That a copy of this Memorial be sent to his
32 wife, Beverlee Neal of Lakewood, Colorado, his daughters, Tina Lam of
33 Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Maureen Neal of Grand Junction, Colorado,
34 his son, Fitz Neal of Edmond, Oklahoma, his stepdaughters, Lorree True
35 of New York, New York, and Jana Thorne of Arvada, Colorado, and his
36 sisters, Velma Griffin and Sue McBrayer.