



SENATE RESOLUTION 07-011

BY SENATOR(S) Fitz-Gerald, Bacon, Boyd, Brophy, Gordon, Groff, Hagedorn, Harvey, Isgar, Johnson, Keller, Kester, Kopp, May R., McElhany, Mitchell S., Morse, Penry, Renfroe, Romer, Sandoval, Schwartz, Shaffer, Spence, Takis, Tapia, Taylor, Tochtrop, Tupa, Veiga, Ward, Wiens, Williams, and Windels.

CONCERNING HONORING PETER BLAKE.

WHEREAS, Peter Blake, long-time Rocky Mountain News columnist, reporter, and political insider, has recently announced his retirement from journalism; and

WHEREAS, Blake, whose parents were part of an international Christian aid organization working in Scandinavia in the 1930's, was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1936; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, his family returned to the United States, and Blake spent his formative years in Columbus, Ohio, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he became an avid baseball fan; and

WHEREAS, Blake left Pennsylvania for a prestigious boarding school in South Kent, Connecticut, and later attended Yale University; and

WHEREAS, Soon after his graduation from college, he was drafted into the Army and shipped out to Japan, where he used his knowledge of the Russian language to intercept and translate radio transmissions detailing enemy troop movements; and

WHEREAS, When his military tour was over, Blake returned to school, this time as a law student at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and developed a taste for journalism while writing for the school newspaper; and

WHEREAS, It was during his time at CU-Boulder when Blake met his wife of 42 years, Sandra; and

WHEREAS, Blake spent his summers away from school in Montana as a smoke jumper (that is, someone who parachutes from an airplane in order to put out fires in remote wilderness areas); and

WHEREAS, After a time working as a journalist in various states across the Northeast, Blake was offered a job at the Rocky Mountain News; and

WHEREAS, In his early career at the paper, Blake worked as a beat reporter, covering a variety of topics across the state, and later as city editor; and

WHEREAS, Blake found his calling during the 1970's as a political reporter and later as a columnist, a passion that would span the rest of his career; and

WHEREAS, During his early days as a political reporter, Blake developed a great perspective for the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, His keen observational skills, tireless work ethic, solid integrity, and consummate reporting skills served him well, and soon Blake became one of the most trusted and respected journalists working at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, His colleague from the Denver Post, Fred Brown, has said that, throughout his career, Blake's "information [has been] unimpeachable"; for Blake, armed with his journalistic skill and with the help of his army of colleagues in the state press corps, virtually no political story remained uncovered; and

WHEREAS, Blake's aggressive pursuit of the truth and sharp wit belie his dignified persona, genial nature, and sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, Despite long hours and the pressures of his job, Blake always managed to balance his family life and his work; and

WHEREAS, Blake has maintained friendships with colleagues,

lobbyists, and political figures on both sides of the aisle; and

WHEREAS, Former Governor Dick Lamm refers to Blake as an "equal opportunity offender", and says that Blake, throughout his more than 30 years as a journalist for the Rocky Mountain News, has managed to remain detached from politics and maintain his journalistic objectivity; and

WHEREAS, Blake has always possessed the ability to take what is possibly a dull story and apply his unique perspective to make it interesting; and

WHEREAS, In one particular column, Blake skewered former state legislator Don Ament, shortly after his appointment to Commissioner of Agriculture in 1999, for ordering a shrimp dinner at a downtown Denver restaurant instead of a Colorado-raised steak, and, to this day, Mr. Ament still receives comments on the piece; and

WHEREAS, Before the Colorado Rockies' inaugural season, when then Governor Roy Romer was nervous about throwing out the first pitch, Blake took it upon himself to take the Governor aside to teach him, in the backyard of the Governor's mansion, how to throw properly; and

WHEREAS, Blake has tutored many a fledgling Rocky reporter in the ways of covering politics across the state; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Blake was elected to the Denver Press Club Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Blake's straightforward style and honest opinion has won him the praise of Rocky Mountain News readers for more than three decades; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

That we, the members of the Senate, would like to extend our warmest congratulations and thanks to Peter Blake for his many years of dedication to his craft and, thereby, his service to the General Assembly.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Resolution be sent to Peter Blake, Peter's sister, Alice Chaffee, and to his sons Dana and John.

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Joan Fitz-Gerald  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Karen Goldman  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE