



HOUSE MEMORIAL 12-1002

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Sonnenberg, Acree, Balmer, Barker, Baumgardner, Becker, Beezley, Bradford, Brown, Casso, Conti, Coram, Court, DelGrosso, Duran, Ferrandino, Fields, Fischer, Gardner B., Gerou, Hamner, Holbert, Hullinghorst, Jones, Joshi, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr J., Labuda, Lee, Levy, Liston, Looper, Massey, McCann, McKinley, Miklosi, Murray, Nikkel, Pabon, Pace, Peniston, Priola, Ramirez, Ryden, Schafer S., Scott, Singer, Solano, Soper, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Swerdfeger, Szabo, Todd, Tyler, Vaad, Vigil, Waller, Williams A., Wilson, Young.

MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE LOWELL SONNENBERG.

WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague, Lowell Ernest Sonnenberg, a past member of the Colorado House of Representatives and Senate, departed this life on January 2, 2012, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg and his sister Lowetta Jane were born to Ernest and Luella Heist Sonnenberg in Sterling, Colorado, on September 6, 1928, they also had a little brother, Gordon Lee Sonnenberg born on December 8, 1936; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg graduated from Logan County High School in Sterling in 1946 and then attended Westmar College before attending Colorado State University on the six-year plan while farming in Fleming; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg married Elizabeth (Libby) Duncan on September 16, 1951, and they both lived in England while he served in the United States Air Force prior to returning to their farm in Colorado and raising a family; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his career in public service, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg and his wife participated in local activities including the LeRoy church, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, In June 1965, Lowell Sonnenberg was appointed to the Colorado Senate to replace Senator John P. Orcott in District 28, representing Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma counties; and

WHEREAS, Lowell Sonnenberg remained in the Senate until 1966 and served on the Health and Welfare; Industrial Affairs; Judiciary; Labor; Livestock; Transportation; and Veterans and Military Affairs committees during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, In 1967, Lowell Sonnenberg was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives to represent District 12 and served in the House until 1974, also representing Districts 52 and 65; and

WHEREAS, In the House, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg served as the vice-chair of the Labor and Employment Relations committee from 1967 to 1968, the vice-chair of the Education committee from 1969 to 1970, and the chair of the Labor and Employment Relations committee from 1971 to 1974; and

WHEREAS, Also during his tenure in the House, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg served on the Agriculture and Livestock; Natural Resources; and Local Government committees; and

WHEREAS, During his time in both houses, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg was appointed to numerous interim committees, including Water in 1965, 1973, and 1974; Financial Institutions in 1966; Open Records in 1967; Institutional Facilities and Rehabilitation Practices in 1971 and 1972; Rights of Agricultural Employers and Employees in 1971, where he also served as vice-chair; Auto Insurance in 1971; Land Use in 1973; and Local Government in 1974; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg left the Colorado General Assembly and was appointed the state executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (now called the Farm Service Agency) within the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg moved to Washington, D.C., in 1977, and returned to Colorado in 1985 where he retired from the Department of Agriculture in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lowell Sonnenberg's hobbies included wood working, snow skiing, water skiing, fishing, travel, and helping neighbors with projects; and

WHEREAS, Former Representative Lowell Sonnenberg is survived by his wife of 60 years, Libby, his son Dean Sonnenberg and his wife Dena of Fleming, his daughter Roberta Wellauer of Westminster, his daughter Marilyn Lapp and her husband Stan of Sterling, his son Greg Sonnenberg and his wife Yolanda of Arvada, four grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That, in the death of Lowell Sonnenberg, the people of the state of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the Colorado House of Representatives, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family and pay tribute to a man who served his state well and faithfully.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to Representative Lowell Sonnenberg's wife, Elizabeth Sonnenberg, of Arvada; his son, Dean Sonnenberg, of Fleming; his daughter, Roberta Wellauer, of Westminster; his daughter, Marilyn Lapp, of Sterling; his son, Greg Sonnenberg, of Arvada; and his brother, Gordon Sonnenberg, of Sterling.

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Frank McNulty
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES