

OBITUARIES

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Dominic Coloroso, longtime state legislator

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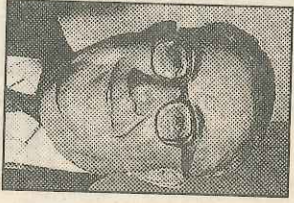
Dominic A. Coloroso, whose service in the Colorado House of Representatives spanned five decades, died Dec. 23 in St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula, Mont. He was 88.

A Mass of Christian burial is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 27, in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Denver.

Mr. Coloroso, instrumental in changing the name of Colorado State College to the University of Northern Colorado, represented Denver in the House for six terms. His first term began in 1935. His final term ended in

1970.

Described as a voice for working people, Mr. Coloroso was a vocal supporter of labor and education, focusing on programs for those with physical or developmental disabilities.



Friends and colleagues said Mr. Coloroso embodied the slogan he used for all of his elections — "Coloroso for Colorado." It was meant to underscore his support for the individual over the

influence of special-interest groups.

In 1940, during one citywide election, Mr. Coloroso, a Democrat, received about 2,000 more votes than President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the city. While the United States remained neutral during the early years of Adolf Hitler's reign, Mr. Coloroso launched a statewide plea for Italian-Americans to demand that Italian Premier Benito Mussolini stay out of the war in Europe.

When Mr. Coloroso was honored by fellow Democrats at a ceremony in Denver in 1981, Joseph Lilly, former chief judge of Denver District Court, said:

"Representative Coloroso's most outstanding quality of all the things he did was that he asked nothing for (himself) but only a chance to be of help to his fellow man."

Mr. Coloroso was a cashier for 26 years at the Public Service Co.'s office in downtown Denver, often serving as an interpreter for Italian-speaking customers who could not understand their bills.

Survivors include a daughter, Frances Ann Daly of Missoula; a son, Don Coloroso of Littleton; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, and a son, William.