



HOUSE MEMORIAL 06-1002

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Hoppe, Balmer, Benefield, Berens, Borodkin, Boyd, Buescher, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll M., Carroll T., Cerbo, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Curry, Decker, Frangas, Gallegos, Garcia, Gardner, Green, Hall, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Jahn, Judd, Kerr, King, Knoedler, Larson, Lindstrom, Liston, Lundberg, Madden, Marshall, Massey, May M., McCluskey, McFadyen, McGihon, McKinley, Merrifield, Paccione, Penry, Plant, Pommer, Ragsdale, Riesberg, Romanoff, Rose, Schultheis, Solano, Soper, Stafford, Stengel, Sullivan, Todd, Vigil, Weissmann, Welker, White, and Witwer.

**MEMORIALIZING FORMER
SPEAKER DAVID A. HAMIL**

WHEREAS, By the Will of Divine Providence, our former member, the Honorable David A. Hamil, departed this life on July 27, 2002, at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, Dave Hamil was born on December 3, 1908, in Proctor, Colorado, to James Newton and Ada (Walker) Hamil; and

WHEREAS, Dave Hamil attended a one-room school house in Proctor through the 8th grade and moved to Logan County Industrial Arts High School in Sterling where he was student body president, graduating in 1926; and

WHEREAS, Dave Hamil attended Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska, where he graduated with honors in 1930 with degrees in English and Philosophy; and

WHEREAS, Dave Hamil won numerous awards as a distance runner and was considered for the 1932 Olympic Team; and

WHEREAS, Dave Hamil began farming, ranching, and cattle feeding in Logan County in 1930 and married Genevieve Robinson on December 24, 1933, having 3 children, Jo Ann Ostwald, Don Hamil, and Jack Hamil, who is now deceased; and

WHEREAS, Dave Hamil was known for a long life of service to his community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, One of Dave Hamil's most significant contributions to northeastern Colorado was helping organize the Highline Electric Cooperative in 1938 that brought electricity to rural Logan County; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 1938, Dave Hamil served 16 years in the House of Representatives, and was Speaker of the House of Representatives for 6 years from 1951 through 1956; and

WHEREAS, Among Dave Hamil's many accomplishments as a legislator was the instrumental role he played in bringing the United States Air Force Academy to Colorado Springs, and in the decision to extend Interstate 70 west of Interstate 25 into the mountains and through the Eisenhower Tunnel; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, Dave Hamil was the Republican candidate for Governor, but was defeated by Democrat Lee Knous in the general election; and

WHEREAS, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Dave Hamil national administrator of the Rural Electrification Association (REA) in 1956, and he again served in that capacity under Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Dave Hamil played a major role in bringing electricity and telephones to all of rural America; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, he returned to Colorado to the ranch in Logan County when Governor John Love appointed him Director of Institutions; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure as Director of Institutions, mental health clinics were established around the state, and Colorado was recognized as having one of the best mental health systems in the country; and

WHEREAS, Dave Hamil left his REA administrative position in Washington in 1979, and retired to his home in Sterling, remaining active in his retirement years serving on the Dakota Gasification Board, working as a consultant for Bechtel Power Corporation, and serving as a trustee for his alma mater, Hastings College; and

WHEREAS, Dave Hamil also served as President of the Logan County Historical Society and helped with the Johnson addition of the Overland Trail Museum; and

WHEREAS, Dave Hamil's other services included being the secretary of the Atwood School District; past Exalted Ruler for the north district Sterling Elks Lodge and District Deputy for Colorado member of the Sterling Masonic Lodge and a 33rd Degree Mason as well as a member of the El Jebel Shrine; member of the Sterling Parks, Library, and Recreation Division Board; and an active member of the Sterling United Way, Rotary International, and the Logan County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, Dave Hamil was inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, In April 2001, Dave Hamil was inducted into the National Cooperative Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2002, the Overland Trail Museum in Sterling held the ceremonial opening of the Dave Hamil Building, which houses hundreds of awards, pictures, plaques, and artifacts Dave Hamil accumulated during his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, David A. Hamil is survived by 2 of his children, Jo Ann Ostwald and Don Hamil, 9 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren; now, therefore,

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

That, in the death of David A. Hamil, the people of the state of Colorado have lost an outstanding citizen and public servant and that we, the members of the House of Representatives, hereby extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family, and pay tribute to a man who served his community, his state, and the nation well and faithfully.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to Dave Hamil's children, Jo Ann Ostwald of Fort Morgan and Don Hamil of Hawk Springs, Wyoming, and his daughter-in-law Jo Hamil of Canon, Texas; the Overland Trail Museum in Sterling, Colorado; the Colorado Rural Electric Association; and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Andrew Romanoff
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES