

Ex-Sen. Allshouse, father of state lottery, dies at 69

By JOHN SANKO and MIKE PATTY
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Former state Sen. J. ROBERT ALLSHOUSE, an Aurora Republican considered to be the father of the Colorado Lottery, died Saturday in Boulder City Hospital in Boulder City, Nev., where he made his home. He was 69.

Flags were ordered flown at half-staff at the state capitol yesterday until the funeral.

Services will be at 1 p.m. tomorrow in Aurora Chase Mortuary, 1095 Havana St. Burial will be in Fort Logan National Cemetery.

A retired life insurance specialist for Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Co., Mr. Allshouse served on the Aurora City Council from 1967 to 1971 and was elected to the state Senate in 1972. He served three four-year terms, retiring in 1984.

He was caucus chairman of Colorado Senate Republicans during the 51st Gen-

eral Assembly and also served a term as Senate president pro tem.

In 1982, Mr. Allshouse succeeded in pushing SB 119 through both houses of the state legislature to establish the Colorado Lottery. In addition, he sponsored legislation repealing Colorado's sales tax on food and toughened laws involving the reclamation of mined and quarried land.

"He always came straight at you on every issue. You knew where he stood on things," said Sen. Al Melkjohn, R-Arizona, a colleague and friend. "He also had a beautiful sense of humility — an abso-lutely open, decent guy."

Sen. Ralph Cole, R-Littleton, a friend and a combatant of Mr. Allshouse, said, "We had our differences, but we always reconciled them."

Cole said that Mr. Allshouse "made it a point when there was a controversial issue to go out and talk to his constituents, which was unusual. He didn't serve as a legislator in a casual way. He worked at it. He had a delightful sense of humor and was honest as the day is long."

Former Senate Majority Leader Dan Noble, R-Norwood, recalled Mr. Allshouse as "one of those rare individuals who always found time to help someone. He was a very concerned legislator both for his district and the people of the state. He will be sorely missed."

Born Oct. 9, 1918, in Cambridge, Ohio, Mr. Allshouse studied forestry at Ohio State University. He joined the Army in October 1941 and served until September 1945 in Africa, Italy, France and Germany.

On Sept. 29, 1945, he married Joan Clay in Baltimore, Md.

"He was one of the most decorated heroes of the Colorado General Assembly, but not many people realized it," said Sen. Harold McCormick, R-Cannon City. "Bob and his division earned eight battle stars in Africa, Italy, the invasion of France and down to the last bullet on the last day in Germany."

Sen. Jack Fenlon, R-Aurora, who succeeded Mr. Allshouse in the Senate, said: "He was once described to me as a lamb in

lion's clothing. Outside, he was rough and tough. But inside he was gentle."

"We'll especially miss his crusty down-to-earth common sense, and his Irish sense of humor. He was a good man," said Sen. Dennis Gallagher, D-Denver.

Longtime Rocky Mountain News state house reporter John Sanko recalled how during highly technical testimony before legislative committees, Mr. Allshouse would often stop the speaker and say he would have to speak in plain English if he wanted to be understood.

"He used to say, 'I'm just a common man and I represent the common man, and I'm proud of it,'" Sanko said.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Allshouse is survived by a son, Dan Allshouse of Redondo Beach, Calif.; a daughter, Tana Allhouse of Fort Collins; a sister, Barbara Drake of Rome, Ohio; and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 245 S. Downing St., Denver 80210.