



SENATE MEMORIAL 12-002

BY SENATOR(S) Foster and Steadman, Aguilar, Bacon, Boyd, Brophy, Cadman, Carroll, Giron, Grantham, Guzman, Harvey, Heath, Hodge, Hudak, Jahn, Johnston, King K., King S., Lambert, Lundberg, Morse, Neville, Newell, Nicholson, Renfroe, Roberts, Scheffel, Schwartz, Spence, Tochtrop, White, Williams S., Shaffer B.

MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR ROBERT S. WHAM.

WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague, Robert "Bob" Shanklin Wham, a past member of the Colorado Senate, departed this life on December 21, 2011, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wham was born to Fred and Nina Wham in Centralia, Illinois, on January 18, 1926, and graduated from Centralia Township High School in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wham married his high school sweetheart, Dorothy "Dottie" Stonecipher, on January 26, 1947; and

WHEREAS, After studying economics at the University of Illinois and graduating from the University of Illinois College of Law, Senator Wham and his wife moved to Colorado to live in the mountains; and

WHEREAS, Upon settling in Montrose, Senator Wham worked for three years at the law firm of Kemp and Icke; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, Senator Wham moved to Denver and joined the Colorado Attorney General's staff; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wham served as Assistant United States District Attorney from 1955 to 1960 and Denver Deputy City Attorney from 1960 to 1961; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wham served as Denver City Attorney under Mayor Batterton from 1962 to 1963, during which time he labored to increase the professionalism of the Denver City Attorney's office and hired the office's first female lawyer; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, Senator Wham left the Denver City Attorney's office to start a private practice, called Shoemaker and Wham, with state Senator Joe Shoemaker; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, Senator Wham became active in Colorado politics and served one term representing Senate District 7 in the Colorado Senate from 1977 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the General Assembly, Senator Wham served for two years as chair of the Business Affairs and Labor Committee, for four years on the Local Government Committee, including two years as vice-chair, and for two years as vice-chair of the Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wham was also a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Education Committee, as well as a number of joint and interim committees; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wham played an instrumental role in protecting Colorado's right to water from the San Luis Valley; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wham continued to practice law as a respected attorney into his eighties; enjoyed skiing, sailing, and hiking; loved the mountains; and was an active member of the Masonic Society, the Republican Party, and the Mayflower Congregational Church; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wham will be remembered as a good friend and a good citizen; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the Senate of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly, pay tribute to the dedicated service of Senator Robert Shanklin Wham and express our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by his death; now, therefore,

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

That, in the death of Robert "Bob" Shanklin Wham, the people of the state of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the Senate of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family and pay tribute to a man who served the state well and faithfully.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to Senator Wham's wife, Dottie Wham of Englewood; his children, Nancy Mitchell of Franktown, Jeanne Ryan of Austin, Texas, and Robert Wham of Bothell, Washington; and his grandchildren.

Brandon C. Shaffer
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Cindi Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE