



The Colorado State Senate

SENATE MEMORIAL 00-001

BY SENATORS Owen, Powers, Blickensderfer, Feeley, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Chlouber, Congrove, Dennis, Dyer, Epps, Evans, Hernandez, Hillman, Lamborn, Linkhart, Martinez, Matsunaka, Musgrave, Nichol, Pascoe, Perlmutter, Phillips, Reeves, Rupert, Sullivant, Tanner, Tebedo, Teck, Thiebaut, Wattenberg, Weddig, and Wham.

MEMORIALIZING WILLIAM S. "BILL" GARNSEY III.

WHEREAS, By the will of Divine Providence, our beloved former member, the Honorable William S. "Bill" Garnsey III, departed this life on January 6, 2000, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Senator Garnsey was born on November 5, 1911, in Billings, Montana; and

WHEREAS, In 1919, Senator Garnsey came with his parents from Montana to Greeley, where his father and a partner, Hugh Wheeler, acquired the car dealership that became Garnsey and Wheeler Ford; and

WHEREAS, Senator Garnsey attended local schools in Greeley, finishing high school at Greeley High School in 1928. After studying one year at Phillips Exeter Academy, Senator Garnsey became a student at Yale University where he lettered in both football and crew; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating from Yale in 1933, Senator Garnsey became a property manager for Van Schaack and Company in Denver; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, Senator Garnsey served in Naval Intelligence and rose to the rank of lieutenant commander. On the day of the Japanese surrender in 1945, he was serving aboard a ship anchored near the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay; and

WHEREAS, After the war, Senator Garnsey returned to Denver to work for the Capital Life Insurance Company. Soon after, in 1947, Senator Garnsey moved to Greeley and took over the family business with a partner, John M. Wheeler. In 1997, with Senator Garnsey's son, Herrick Garnsey, as the sole owner, the dealership marked its seventy-fifth anniversary and earned recognition from Ford Motor Company as the second oldest Ford dealership in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Before entering partisan politics, Senator Garnsey served on the boards of both the Greeley Library District and the Greeley-Evans School District 6; and

WHEREAS, Senator Garnsey was instrumental in forming the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, established in a merger of the statewide Chambers of Commerce, of which he was president, and the Colorado branch of the National Association of Manufacturing. In addition, Senator Garnsey served on the National Ford Dealer Council and was president of the Colorado Auto Dealers' Association. Senator Garnsey also served on the board of directors of Colorado National Bank and First National Bank of Greeley; and

WHEREAS, Long active in the Republican Party, William Garnsey III was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 1966 and represented Greeley from 1967 to 1975; and

WHEREAS, During his time in office, Senator Garnsey served on the Transportation Committee and was chair of the Finance and the Business and Labor committees. He was the prime sponsor of the bill that, in 1972, gave university status and an independent governing board to Colorado State College, now the University of Northern Colorado; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his services to public education and to Colorado, Senator Garnsey was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the University of Northern Colorado in 1996; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the Republican Party, Senator Garnsey was a valued member of the Greeley Rotary Club, the Greeley Country Club, the University Club of Denver, and the Grand Lake Yacht Club, where he was a former commodore. He also belonged to Trinity Episcopal Church, where he served for several years on the vestry; now, therefore,

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

That, in the death of William S. "Bill" Garnsey III, the people of the State of Colorado have lost an outstanding citizen and a devoted public servant and that we, the members of the Senate of the Sixty-second General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family and to his friends, and pay tribute to a man who served his community, his country, and the State of Colorado well and faithfully.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this Memorial be sent to Senator Garnsey's wife, Roseanne, to his children W. Herrick Garnsey of Greeley, Anson H. Garnsey of Denver, and Louisa G. Lambert of Pennington, New Jersey, and to his three stepchildren, Geoffrey Ball of Denver, Melissa Frakes of Parker, and Wendy Panfil of Oija, California.

Ray Powers
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Patricia K. Dicks
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE