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## Hundreds pay last respects to ex-lawmaker Trimble

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above the crowd.

"The good thing about him is he never changed from the beginning to the end. He was always a gentleman."

More than a dozen large bouquets lined the front of the church, where Trimble's body lay in state before the ceremonies began.

An emotional Mayor Webb remembered his old friend and former adviser during a memorial speech as a man of "vision and compassion" who "had the ability to bring people together."

Webb recalled that Trimble was the "sharpest dresser" at Manual High, sporting a briefcase well before he became a lawyer.

Webb said Trimble frequently opened his law practice to clients who couldn't afford to pay.

In a moving tribute, Trimble's son Omari, a senior at Amherst College in Massachusetts, called on those present to celebrate the life of the man he remembered as "my friend, my father and my hero."

Most of all, he said, his father was "a great man" and a "distinguished gentleman."

The Denver Post / Dave Buresh

Dixie and Omari Trimble, far right, the widow and son of King M. Trimble Jr., walk past mourners including Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, background, outside Cleaves

Memorial C.M.E. Church on Wednesday. King Trimble, an attorney and former Denver city councilman and state lawmaker, died Nov. 19 after a bout with cancer. He was 55.

# Dignitaries honor a 'gentleman'

By Julia C. Martinez  
Denver Post Staff Writer

Cleaves Memorial C.M.E. Church filled to overflowing Wednesday as a who's who of Denver's legal and political community paid their final respects to a man everyone called a "gentleman."

King M. Trimble Jr., an attorney and former state lawmaker, died Nov. 19 after a battle with cancer. He was 55.

"King was a great guy, a great asset for all the community in Denver. It's a big loss," said attorney Steve Farber, a partner in the firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber & Strickland.

"When you lose one of your contemporaries who you consider to be a young person, it's a tremendous blow," said Norm Early, Denver's former district attorney.

Former Mayor Federico Peña, District Attorney Bill Ritter, City Attorney Dan Muse and Mayor Wellington Webb

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were among the dignitaries in attendance. Attorney General-elect Ken Salazar was there, as was Police Chief Tom Sanchez, Fire Chief Rich Gonzales and numerous city and state officials.

A native of Cincinnati, Trimble grew up in Denver and earned his bachelor of science degree in accounting and economics from Colorado State University in 1964. He attended law school in St. Louis, where he served as assistant U.S. attorney for the eastern district of Missouri.

After returning to Colorado, Trimble served one term in the state House of

Representatives starting in 1977 and was fondly remembered for holding an annual Thanksgiving party for senior citizens in his district.

In 1980, he was elected to the Denver City Council and served one term before returning to his law practice. He, Penfield Tate Jr. and Darrell Nulan founded the firm Trimble, Tate & Nulan, for many years the largest black law partnership west of the Mississippi. At the time of his death, he was the managing partner in Trimble & Nulan P.C.

Between 700 and 1,000 people packed the church at East 22nd Avenue and Marion Street in north-central Denver for Wednesday's service. Denver Police Division Chief Armedia Gordon said she knew Trimble at Manual High School, from which he graduated in 1960.

"I always knew he was destined to be someone," Gordon said. "He was heads

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