



HOUSE MEMORIAL 05-1005

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Carroll T., Balmer, Benefield, Berens, Borodkin, Boyd, Brophy, Buescher, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll M., Cerbo, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Curry, Decker, Frangas, Gallegos, Garcia, Green, Hall, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, 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 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JANE WOODHOUSE MCLAUGHLIN.**

WHEREAS, By the Will of Divine Providence, our beloved former member, the Honorable Jane Woodhouse McLaughlin, departed this life on July 21, 2004, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Representative McLaughlin was born November 29, 1914, in Hartford, Connecticut, and grew up in nearby Weathersfield, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Representative McLaughlin attended Bennington College in Vermont where she graduated in 1936 with a degree in theater; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, Representative McLaughlin moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked for the Department of the Interior and the Office of Inter-American Affairs while studying law at the Washington College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Representative McLaughlin then earned her law degree at the University of Colorado in 1948, becoming one of Colorado's first female lawyers; and

WHEREAS, Representative McLaughlin became an assistant city attorney in Denver and was assigned to traffic court, and she eventually moved to the health division in the city attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, Representative McLaughlin's interests were in the mental health field, and she became the first president of the Colorado Mental Health Association, often made speeches to various community groups, and often stated that mental illness was "our nation's No. 1 problem"; and

WHEREAS, Representative McLaughlin was elected as a Democrat to the state House of Representatives in 1956 where she served until 1961, and during her terms, she served as Chair of the State Institutions Committee and Vice-chair of the Health and Welfare Committee, as well as serving on the Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, It was during her service as a state representative that she met Frederic McLaughlin, a Republican member of the House of Representatives who owned a ranch in the Basalt area, and the two were married in 1960; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the state House of Representatives, Representative McLaughlin worked to reform the state's mental health

system and to change the way mental illness was viewed by society by traveling around the state, writing newspaper articles, and debating the issue in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Representative McLaughlin worked to replace derogatory terms such as "lunacy laws" with "mental health laws", to remove the stigma associated with mental illness, and to update methods of diagnosis and hospitalization for people with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, After her service as a state representative, Representative McLaughlin became guardian *ad litem* for children who were wards of the state and also served on various community boards; and

WHEREAS, Representative McLaughlin will be remembered for her passion for helping those with mental illnesses, and those who knew her describe her as hard-working, opinionated, persuasive, proper, poised, witty, acerbic, and intelligent; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the House of Representatives, pay tribute to the dedicated service of Representative McLaughlin and express our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by her death; 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 Jane Woodhouse McLaughlin, 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 deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family and pay tribute to a woman who served her state well and faithfully.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to Representative McLaughlin's nieces, Katie Woodhouse Meigs of Sheffield, Massachusetts, and Alexandra Woodhouse Drayton of New York City, New York.

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Andrew Romanoff
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES