



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 01-024

BY SENATOR(S) Matsunaka, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Dyer (Arapahoe), Dyer (Durango), Entz, Epps, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hillman, May, McElhany, Musgrave, Perlmutter, Takis, Taylor, Thiebaut, Tupa, and Windels;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Fritz, Alexander, Bacon, Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Cadman, Chavez, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Daniel, Dean, Decker, Fairbank, Garcia, Groff, Grossman, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Jameson, Johnson, Kester, King, Larson, Lawrence, Lee, Mace, Madden, Marshall, Miller, Mitchell, Nuñez, Paschall, Plant, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Rippey, Romanoff, Saliman, Sanchez, Schultheis, Scott, Sinclair, Smith, Snook, Spence, Spradley, Stafford, Stengel, Swenson, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, Vigil, Webster, Weddig, White, Williams, S., Williams, T., Witwer, Young.

CONCERNING A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ON JULY 31, 2001, FOR THE PERSONS WHOSE LIVES WERE CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE BIG THOMPSON FLOOD THAT OCCURRED ON JULY 31, 1976.

WHEREAS, During the evening of July 31, 1976, heavy rain fell over a seventy-square-mile area in the central portion of the Big Thompson watershed, dumping approximately fifty million tons of rain water into the river; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that twelve to fourteen inches of rain fell on the slopes in the western end of the Big Thompson Canyon during the most intense portion of the storm; and

WHEREAS, This rain fall led to a flash flood that ravaged the Big Thompson Canyon and caused one of the worst natural disasters in Colorado history; and

WHEREAS, One hundred forty-four persons lost their lives, 5 of whom were never found, and 88 persons were injured; and

WHEREAS, The estimated property damage related to the Big Thompson Flood exceeded twenty-eight million dollars, causing damage or destruction to at least 390 homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The tragedy of the Big Thomson Flood has left a physical and emotional mark on the Big Thompson Canyon and the surrounding communities that will not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, The courage of the persons who assisted in search and rescue operations and the courage of the families touched by this tragedy have strengthened the community; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That July 31, 2001, be a day of remembrance for the individuals whose lives were lost in the Big Thompson Flood, and for those whose lives were touched by the destruction of the flood; and

(2) That the General Assembly requests the Governor issue an executive order proclaiming July 31, 2001, a day of remembrance for the individuals whose lives were lost in the Big Thompson Flood, and for those whose lives were touched by the destruction of the flood.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Big Thompson Memorial committee members, the Drake Club, and the honorable Bill Owens, Governor.

Stan Matsunaka
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Doug Dean
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Judith Rodrigue
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES