

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M23-0669.01 Shannon Wheeler x4340

SJM23-001

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23-001

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR DOTTIE**
102 **WHAM.**

1 WHEREAS, Dorothy ("Dottie") Stonecipher Wham departed this
2 life on October 20, 2019; and

3 WHEREAS, Dottie was born in Centralia, Illinois on January 5,
4 1925; and

5 WHEREAS, Dottie received a bachelor's degree from McMurray
6 College, a master's degree from the University of Illinois, and an honorary
7 doctorate from McMurray College as a distinguished alumna; and

8 WHEREAS, Dottie married her high school sweetheart, Robert
9 Wham, on January 26, 1947; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 WHEREAS, Bob and Dottie moved from Illinois to Montrose,
2 Colorado in 1950, and then moved to Denver in 1953; and

3 WHEREAS, Dottie served as the Regional Director for Colorado
4 and Wyoming for the federal domestic volunteer agency known as
5 "ACTION" for 10 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Dottie served in the Colorado House of
7 Representatives from 1983 to 1986, and in the Colorado Senate from
8 1986 to 2000; and

9 WHEREAS, Dottie served as Chair of the Senate Judiciary
10 Committee for 12 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Dottie was the first person to chair the Senate
12 Judiciary Committee who was not an attorney; and

13 WHEREAS, During her legislative career, Dottie served as the
14 prime sponsor for 321 House and Senate bills, of which 243 were enacted
15 into law; and

16 WHEREAS, One of the accomplishments of which Senator Wham
17 was very proud was her work to establish a trauma system throughout the
18 state to ensure that persons injured by trauma were taken to the most
19 appropriate facility as quickly as possible; and

20 WHEREAS, The establishment of the trauma system took 9 years
21 of work with other legislators, rural and urban hospitals, patient
22 representatives, fire departments, and professional associations of
23 physicians, nurses, and emergency medical technicians; and

24 WHEREAS, That system is still in place and operating smoothly
25 today; and

26 WHEREAS, Other bills of note carried by Dottie Wham include
27 bills to establish confidential testing for the HIV virus, establishment of
28 a system to test all newborn infants in the state for hearing loss, standards
29 and procedures for advanced directives for end of life care, and several
30 omnibus criminal justice bills; and

31 WHEREAS, Dottie Wham was recognized by the Hon. Scott

1 McGinnis on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on
2 May 23, 2000, as the "citizen-legislator ideal" and as "a model that every
3 official in elected office should seek to emulate", and by the Hon. Diana
4 DeGette on November 15, 2019, as a "true public servant in every sense
5 of the word", who had a "deep and unwavering commitment to work
6 across the political aisle to get things done for her community"; and

7 WHEREAS, Dottie Wham will be remembered for her humor,
8 compassion, practicality, and her integrity, in addition to being a good
9 friend and a good citizen; and

10 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the General
11 Assembly, pay tribute to the dedicated service of Representative and
12 Senator Dorothy Stonecipher Wham and express our deep regret and
13 sorrow occasioned by her death; now, therefore,

14 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General*
15 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
16 *concurring herein:*

17 That, in the death of Dorothy Stonecipher Wham, the people of the
18 state of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding
19 citizen, and that we, the members of the General Assembly, do hereby
20 extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family and
21 pay tribute to a woman who served the state well and faithfully.

22 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent
23 to Representative and Senator Wham's children, Nancy Mitchell of
24 Franktown, Dr. Jeanne Ryan of Austin, Texas, Robert Wham of Bothell,
25 Washington, and her grandchildren.