

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. M14-0882.01 Joel Moore x4497

SJM14-002

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Tochtrop,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lebsock,

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Senate Committees

House Committees

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 14-002

101 CONCERNING MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR ELDON W. "COOP"  
102 COOPER.

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1 WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague, Senator Eldon W.  
2 "Coop" Cooper, departed this life on April 16, 2013, at the age of 86; and

3 WHEREAS, He was born on February 20, 1927, on his father's  
4 homestead at Kendrick, Colorado, before severe drought led his family  
5 to pack up its wagons and livestock and head north to Merino, Colorado,  
6 in 1932; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Cooper was a veteran of World War II,  
8 having been inducted into the Army at Fort Logan, Colorado, and serving  
9 in the Philippines, where he also lost a dear brother; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
Final Reading  
March 28, 2014

1           WHEREAS, For his actions in the war, Senator Cooper received  
2 the Asian Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Victory Medal, and the Good  
3 Conduct Medal and quickly rose from the rank of Private to that of  
4 Technician Fourth Grade, just below Sergeant; and

5           WHEREAS, He married the love of his life, Mary Jo Scheidegger,  
6 in Fort Collins in 1947, and they remained together for 62 years until her  
7 passing in 2009; and

8           WHEREAS, Senator Cooper was appointed by vacancy committee  
9 in 1968 to represent House District 4, in Adams County, and continued  
10 to serve in the House as the representative for House District 30 in  
11 Denver until 1974; and

12           WHEREAS, Senator Cooper was then elected to the Colorado  
13 Senate, serving Senate District 18 until 1978; and

14           WHEREAS, As a member of the General Assembly, Senator  
15 Cooper served on the Game, Fish, & Parks; Health, Welfare, &  
16 Institutions; Labor & Employment Relations; Appropriations; Business  
17 Affairs & Labor; Education; Wildlife, Parks, Natural Resources, &  
18 Energy; and Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy committees, as  
19 well as serving on the Joint Budget Committee; and

20           WHEREAS, Senator Cooper was the workingman's friend,  
21 promoting workers' safety and collective bargaining rights as a leader in  
22 the Denver Area Labor Federation; as an international representative for  
23 United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Workers; and as  
24 president of the Colorado AFL-CIO; and

25           WHEREAS, One of Senator Cooper's proudest legislative  
26 achievements was the creation of the senior citizen's lifetime fishing  
27 license; Senator Cooper's father, Samuel Cooper, was issued the first  
28 license of its kind; and

29           WHEREAS, After leaving the General Assembly, in addition to  
30 continuing his fight for workers' rights, Senator Cooper served on the  
31 Colorado Division of Wildlife and was appointed by President Jimmy  
32 Carter as Assistant Director for the Department of Labor, Western  
33 Region; and

1           WHEREAS, Senator Cooper and his wife Mary Jo left behind a  
2 grand living legacy as the proud parents of five children and an extended  
3 family that includes fifteen grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, and  
4 five great-great-grandchildren; now, therefore,

5           *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly*  
6 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

7  
8           That, in the death of Senator Eldon W. Cooper, the people of the  
9 state of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding  
10 citizen, and that we, the members of the General Assembly, do hereby  
11 extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family and  
12 pay tribute to someone who served his state well and faithfully.

13           *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent  
14 to Senator Cooper's children: Judy and Sonny Sherrin, of Tecumseh,  
15 Oklahoma; Sam and Debbie Cooper, of Dacono, Colorado; Doug and  
16 Diane Cooper, of Brighton, Colorado; Vicki and Ernie Rodrigues, of  
17 Morrison, Colorado; and Jeri and Randy Mitchell, of Lakewood,  
18 Colorado.