



SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 14-002

BY SENATOR(S) Tochtrop, Aguilar, Balmer, Baumgardner, Brophy, Cadman, Crowder, Grantham, Guzman, Harvey, Heath, Herpin, Hill, Hodge, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, King, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Newell, Nicholson, Renfroe, Rivera, Roberts, Scheffel, Schwartz, Steadman, Todd, Ulibarri, Zenzinger, Carroll;  
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lebsock, Becker, Buck, Buckner, Conti, Coram, Court, DelGrosso, Dore, Duran, Everett, Exum, Fields, Fischer, Foote, Garcia, Gardner, Gerou, Ginal, Hamner, Holbert, Hullinghorst, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lee, May, McCann, McLachlan, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Murray, Navarro, Nordberg, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Schafer, Scott, Singer, Sonnenberg, Swalm, Szabo, Tyler, Vigil, Waller, Williams, Wilson, Wright, Young, Ferrandino.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, For his actions in the war, Senator Cooper received the Asian Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct

Medal and quickly rose from the rank of Private to that of Technician Fourth Grade, just below Sergeant; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Senator Cooper and his wife Mary Jo left behind a grand

living legacy as the proud parents of five children and an extended family that includes fifteen grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren; now, therefore,

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

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

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

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Morgan Carroll  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Mark Ferrandino  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Cindi Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES