

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M18-0129.01 Rebecca Hausmann x2172

SJM18-004

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Senate Committees

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18-004

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER CONGRESSMAN RAY KOGOVSEK.**

1 WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague, Raymond Kogovsek,
2 a past member of the Colorado General Assembly and the United States
3 House of Representatives, departed this life on April 30, 2017, at the age
4 of 75; and

5 WHEREAS, Congressman Kogovsek was born in Pueblo,
6 Colorado, on August 19, 1941, one of six children and the son of a
7 steelworker; and

8 WHEREAS, He was passionate about his Slovenian heritage and
9 held great love for his Yugoslavian grandmother, who ran a tavern on
10 Pueblo's Slovenian south side; and

11 WHEREAS, He was named Colorado's Honorary Consul to

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

1 Yugoslavia and at his death was the Honorary Consul Emeritus for
2 Slovenia in the Colorado Consular Corps; and

3 WHEREAS, After graduating from Pueblo Catholic High School
4 in 1959, Congressman Kogovsek went on to attend Pueblo Junior College
5 and Adams State College, graduating in 1964 with a degree in business
6 administration; and

7 WHEREAS, Congressman Kogovsek discovered his lifelong
8 calling as a public servant after joining the staff of the Pueblo County
9 Clerk and Recorder's office in 1964; and

10 WHEREAS, He became the chief deputy county clerk in 1968, the
11 same year he won a bid for the Colorado House of Representatives at the
12 age of 27; and

13 WHEREAS, He was elected to the Colorado Senate in 1970,
14 serving as Senate majority leader in 1973; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1978, he was elected to the United States House
16 of Representatives for the 3rd Congressional District, a position he held
17 for three terms, winning twice against the same opponent and a third time
18 after redistricting; and

19 WHEREAS, In the past 40 years, Congressman Kogovsek was
20 Pueblo's only congressperson; and

21 WHEREAS, During his time in Washington he served on the
22 House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (now the Natural
23 Resources Committee), where he championed natural resource legislation
24 such as the Colorado National Forest Wilderness Act of 1980, which
25 established many iconic wilderness areas in Colorado, including Cache
26 la Poudre, Lost Creek, and Collegiate Peaks wilderness areas; and

27 WHEREAS, He also worked on western water issues and on
28 boundary disputes for the Ute Mountain Ute tribe as part of his Interior
29 and Insular Affairs Committee work; and

30 WHEREAS, The funding he helped secure to widen I-70 through
31 Glenwood Canyon, an outcome of the Transportation and Infrastructure
32 Committee on which he also served, is a lasting legacy; and

1 WHEREAS, As a United States representative he was appointed
2 to the United States-Mexico Interparliamentary Commission and
3 participated in numerous congressional caucuses to advance Colorado's
4 tourism, steel industry, agriculture, and more; and

5 WHEREAS, During his time in both the Colorado General
6 Assembly and United States Congress, he was known for his ability to
7 work across party lines to find consensus on difficult issues for the
8 benefit of Coloradans and all Americans; and

9 WHEREAS, After deciding not to seek reelection, he returned to
10 Pueblo to form the consulting firm Kogovsek & Associates, Inc., with key
11 staff member Christine Arbogast; and

12 WHEREAS, His company focused on responsible water resource
13 management and development, transportation, Native American issues,
14 appropriation of federal funds for a wide range of programs and capital
15 projects, and the use and protection of our public lands; and

16 WHEREAS, Congressman Kogovsek was awarded the Wayne
17 Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award in 2003 by the Colorado Water
18 Congress, the Citizen of the Year Award in 2014 by the Pueblo Chamber
19 of Commerce, and was inducted into the Pueblo Hall of Fame in 2009;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Through all of these accomplishments, Congressman
22 Kogovsek remained a caring and generous husband to his wife, Linda;
23 devoted and loving father to his daughters, Lisa Marie Kogovsek and
24 ToniRae Andres; proud grandfather to his grandson, Reece Raymond
25 Andres; and beloved figure to his many friends and family members; and

26 WHEREAS, Upon hearing of his passing, Congressman
27 Kogovsek's colleagues remembered him with warm words of praise, such
28 as from former United States Senator Gary Hart, who said, "I told Ray not
29 long ago that he would never know how important he had been to
30 southern Colorado, to the people of the 3rd Congressional District, to all
31 the young people he had mentored over the years"; and

32 WHEREAS, Former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm, who
33 served with Congressman Kogovsek in the Colorado General Assembly,
34 said, "He was the role model of a good legislator ... if we had lawmakers
35 like Ray on both sides of the aisle today, there isn't anything our state

1 couldn't accomplish"; and

2 WHEREAS, United States Representative Scott Tipton, who
3 represents the 3rd Congressional District today, remarked in a tribute
4 delivered on the House floor shortly before Congressman Kogovsek's
5 death, "He is a man of gentle wisdom, wisdom about people, a man with
6 a gut instinct to know what is right, a genuine man, a man who knows no
7 anger"; and

8 WHEREAS, Governor John Hickenlooper, after ordering flags to
9 be flown at half staff on all Colorado public buildings statewide on May
10 3, 2017, in honor of this Colorado statesman, remarked, "Ray dedicated
11 his life to supporting the interests of the people of Pueblo and southern
12 Colorado. His efforts have left an indelible mark across our state and on
13 so many lives that will cherish his legacy of respect and selflessness in
14 serving others"; now, therefore,

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

17 That, in the death of Raymond Kogovsek, the people of the State
18 of Colorado have lost a devoted public servant and an outstanding citizen,
19 and that we, the members of the Seventy-first General Assembly, pay
20 tribute to Raymond Kogovsek for his years of dedicated public service
21 and do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of
22 his family.

23 *Be It Further Resolved,* That a copy of this Joint Memorial be sent
24 to Congressman Kogovsek's wife, Linda Kogovsek; his children, Lisa
25 Marie Kogovsek and ToniRae Andres; and his grandson, Reece Raymond
26 Andres.