



SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18-004

BY SENATOR(S) Garcia, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Esgar, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Neville P., Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Reyher, Roberts, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

MEMORIALIZING FORMER CONGRESSMAN RAY KOGOVSEK.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, He was named Colorado's Honorary Consul to Yugoslavia and at his death was the Honorary Consul Emeritus for Slovenia in the Colorado Consular Corps; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm, who served with Congressman Kogovsek in the Colorado General Assembly, said,

"He was the role model of a good legislator ... if we had lawmakers like Ray on both sides of the aisle today, there isn't anything our state couldn't accomplish"; and

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

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

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

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

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

Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
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