

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M17-0716.01 Gwynne Middleton x4340

HM17-1001

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Singer,

House Committees

HOUSE MEMORIAL 17-1001

101 **CONCERNING MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE BETTY**
102 **SWENSON.**

1 WHEREAS, Former Representative Betty Virginia Swenson
2 departed this life on December 20, 2016, at the age of 83; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Swenson was born November 4,
4 1933, in Salina, Kansas, to E. Leonard and Myrtle Nelson and spent her
5 formative years in rural Kansas surrounded by a strong
6 Swedish-American community; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Swenson graduated from high school
8 at age 16 and went on to earn an undergraduate degree in math education
9 from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, before marrying her class
10 rival and best friend, Bill Swenson, in 1955, and moving together to
11 Alabama and Texas for Mr. Swenson's military obligations and then back
12 to Kansas for postgraduate study; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Swenson and her family settled
14 permanently in Longmont, Colorado, where she began her service to
15 others by actively supporting her church's charitable work 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.

1 volunteering in her Longmont community; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Swenson represented Longmont in the
3 Colorado General Assembly from 1985 to 1992 and served as the House
4 Majority Whip in 1989 and 1990 and as the Vice-Chair for the House
5 Health Environment Welfare & Institutions Committee in 1991 and 1992;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In addition to her leadership roles in the House,
8 Representative Swenson sponsored legislation to make a custodial parent
9 responsible for part of a child's financial support after a divorce, if that
10 parent has enough income, to avoid placing the sole financial support
11 burden on the noncustodial parent; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Swenson was also integral to the
13 passage of a measure that led to the creation of a voter-approved,
14 tax-supported stadium district for the construction of Denver's now
15 well-known Coors Field stadium; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Swenson was chosen by American
17 Mothers, Inc., to represent Colorado as Mother of the Year in 1985 and
18 spent her remaining years supporting that organization's work with new
19 mothers and strong families, as well as maintaining an active role in
20 politics after her legislative tenure; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Swenson possessed a passion for
22 creating beautiful handmade textiles, from clothing and sweaters to quilts
23 and sleeping bags, and for baking hearty homemade bread, often waking
24 her children with the noisy kneading of dough; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative Swenson traveled widely, visiting
26 every continent except Antarctica, and during her travels made great
27 efforts to find relatives--dead or alive--in every corner of the world; and

28 WHEREAS, Representative Swenson is fondly remembered by her
29 husband, Bill Swenson; her children Julie Reusser, David Swenson, and
30 Joy Swenson; her sister Marylen Anderson; her seven grandchildren; and
31 her five great-grandchildren; as well as by her many extended family
32 members, all who will miss her generosity of spirit, wicked wit, and
33 appreciation for all life offers; now, therefore,

34 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*

1 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 That, in the death of Representative Betty Swenson, the people of
3 the State of Colorado have lost a devoted public servant and an
4 outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the Seventy-first General
5 Assembly, pay tribute to Representative Swenson for her years of
6 dedicated public service and do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt
7 sympathy to the members of her family.

8 *Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this Memorial be sent to
9 former Representative Bill Swenson, Ms. Julie Reusser, Mr. David
10 Swenson, Ms. Joy Swenson, and Ms. Marylen Anderson.