



HOUSE MEMORIAL 17-1001

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Singer, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE BETTY SWENSON.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Representative Swenson and her family settled permanently in Longmont, Colorado, where she began her service to others by actively supporting her church's charitable work and volunteering in her Longmont community; and

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

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

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

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

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

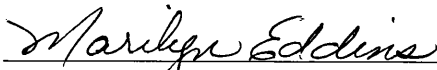
WHEREAS, Representative Swenson traveled widely, visiting every continent except Antarctica, and during her travels made great efforts to find relatives--dead or alive--in every corner of the world; and


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

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

That, in the death of Representative Betty Swenson, 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 Representative Swenson for her years of dedicated public service and do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family.

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


Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES


Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES