

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. M16-0950.01 Cara Meeker x2044

HM16-1002

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Neville P.,

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House Committees

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HOUSE MEMORIAL 16-1002

101 MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JOHN ROBERT  
102 MCELDERRY.

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1 WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague, John Robert  
2 McElderry, a past member of the Colorado House of Representatives,  
3 departed this life on March 30, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative McElderry was born in Cleveland,  
5 Ohio, on February 7, 1928, before moving to Pullman, Washington, and  
6 then Santa Ana, California; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative McElderry finished high school early  
8 and enlisted in the United States Air Force; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1951, Representative McElderry graduated from  
10 the University of Southern California (USC) as a 2nd Lieutenant in the  
11 United States Air Force Reserves with a Bachelor's Degree in Public  
12 Administration; and

13 WHEREAS, While studying at USC, Representative McElderry  
14 married his life partner Joanne, and they eventually had three children;

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.*

HOUSE  
Final Reading  
March 18, 2016

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Representative McElderry served in the Air Force  
3 until 1953, when he returned to Cleveland, Ohio, to work at the  
4 Connecticut General Life Insurance Company; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative McElderry eventually felt called to the  
6 ministry, and attended the Union Theological Seminary in New York  
7 City, where he received a Bachelor of Divinity in 1963 and a Master of  
8 Sacred Theology in 1968; and

9 WHEREAS, After serving as Pastor of Bethany Congregational  
10 Church in East Rockaway, New York, Representative McElderry moved  
11 his family to Colorado to serve as Pastor of Wheat Ridge Congregational  
12 Church; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative McElderry's love of country and  
14 lifelong commitment to the Republican Party led him to serve in the  
15 Colorado State Legislature for two terms, from 1977 to 1980; and

16 WHEREAS, During that time, he served on the Appropriations  
17 Committee, as Vice-chair of the Education and Finance Committees, and  
18 as Chair of the Rules Committee; and

19 WHEREAS, He also served on a number of interim committees,  
20 including the Fire and Police Pensions and Higher Education Interim  
21 Committees in 1977 and 1978; and

22 WHEREAS, After his time in the legislature, in 1981  
23 Representative McElderry went on to serve as Regional Chief of the  
24 United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative McElderry loved nature, and often  
26 took his family on car-camping trips through national parks in Iowa and  
27 California, and also went backpacking in Colorado; and

28 WHEREAS, Representative McElderry cherished his family and  
29 friends and loved reading, listening to music and the news, talking  
30 politics, creating gardens with his wife, and hosting family gatherings;  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, His legacy is one of service to God, his family, his

1 country, and an eternal optimism that he shared with all; now, therefore,

2 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*  
3 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

4 That, in the death of John Robert McElderry, the people of the  
5 State of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding  
6 citizen, and that we, the members of the House of Representatives of the  
7 Seventieth General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt  
8 sympathy to the members of his family and pay tribute to a man who  
9 served his state well and faithfully.

10 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be sent to his  
11 wife, Joanne McElderry, and his children Cheryl and Jon Stine, Tom and  
12 Lois McElderry, and Kathleen and Chuck Lane.