



HOUSE MEMORIAL 16-1002

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Neville P., Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Brown, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Conti, Coram, Court, Danielson, DelGrosso, Dore, Duran, Esgar, Everett, Fields, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Hamner, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Klingenschmitt, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lontine, Lundeen, McCann, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Navarro, Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Tyler, VanWinkle, Vigil, Willett, Williams, Wilson, Windholz, Winter, Wist, Young, Hullinghorst.

**MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN ROBERT MCELDERRY.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, His legacy is one of service to God, his family, his country, and an eternal optimism that he shared with all; now, therefore,

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

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

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

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dickey Lee Hullinghorst
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES