

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

**ENGROSSED**

LLS NO. M17-0064.01 Vanessa Cleaver x4636

**HJM17-1001**

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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17-1001**

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR WILLIAM L. ARMSTRONG.**

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1           WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague, William L.  
2           Armstrong, a past member of the Colorado General Assembly, departed  
3           this life on July 5, 2016, at the age of 79; and

4           WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong was born in Fremont, Nebraska,  
5           on March 16, 1937; and

6           WHEREAS, At an early age, Senator Armstrong had his first foray  
7           into politics when he appeared before the Fremont City Council in  
8           support of a measure to treat animals more humanely at the local dog  
9           shelter. His love of animals continued throughout his life; and

10           WHEREAS, After graduating from Lincoln Northeast High School  
11           in 1954, Senator Armstrong went on to attend Tulane University and the

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  
Amended Final Rdg.  
April 28, 2017

1 University of Minnesota before serving in the United States National  
2 Guard from 1957 to 1963; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong married Ellen M. Eaton and had  
4 two children, Anne and Wil; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong fell in love with broadcasting and  
6 started working at radio stations at a young age. At 22, he bought a radio  
7 station on the outskirts of Denver, KOSI-AM, and began a successful  
8 career in radio; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout his media profession, Senator Armstrong  
10 was president of KOSI and KEZW radio stations in Denver, president of  
11 the Ambassador Media Corporation, which owned television stations in  
12 Idaho and Wyoming, and president of the Colorado Springs newspaper,  
13 the Colorado Springs Sun; and

14 WHEREAS, At the age of 25, Senator Armstrong's career as an  
15 elected official began when he was elected to the Colorado House of  
16 Representatives in 1963; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong later served in the Colorado  
18 Senate from 1965 to 1972, eventually becoming Senate majority leader;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, In 1972, Senator Armstrong was elected to the United  
21 States House of Representatives after winning a newly created seat in the  
22 eastern suburbs of Denver, and in 1978, he was elected to the United  
23 States Senate; and

24 WHEREAS, During his time in the United States Senate, Senator  
25 Armstrong served on the banking and finance committees, as chairman  
26 of the Republican Policy Committee, and, after pushing to address  
27 impending shortages in Social Security funding, was appointed to  
28 President Reagan's National Commission on Social Security Reform; and

29 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong was the driving force behind the  
30 conservative counter proposal to President Ronald Reagan's proposed  
31 budget, ensuring a compromise from the Reagan Administration to cut  
32 long-term deficits; and

33 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong was the winner of the National

1 Taxpayers Union's "Taxpayers' Friend Award" every year since its  
2 creation in 1979, and a sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment  
3 to require a balanced federal budget; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong was named the "military pay  
5 champion" of the United States Senate by Army Times for serving as the  
6 Senate's chief proponent in the restoration of the G.I. Bill, which would  
7 provide educational benefits to ex-servicemembers; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1982, Senator Armstrong worked with other  
9 legislators to pass a resolution that President Reagan signed designating  
10 1983 as the "Year of the Bible", which stated that the Bible "has made a  
11 unique contribution in shaping the United States as a distinctive and  
12 blessed nation and people" and that, quoting President Andrew Jackson,  
13 the Bible is "the rock on which our Republic rests"; and

14 WHEREAS, After leaving the United States Senate in 1991,  
15 Senator Armstrong returned to Colorado where he continued to pursue  
16 many business ventures as the director of six public companies and  
17 chairman, owner, and operator of 13 private companies, including three  
18 mortgage companies, the Denver-based OppenheimerFunds mutual funds  
19 group, and an appraisal company; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2006, Senator Armstrong became the president of  
21 Colorado Christian University (CCU); and

22 WHEREAS, During his tenure, CCU's enrollment more than  
23 doubled, and the American Council of Trustees and Alumni ranked CCU  
24 in the top 2% of colleges nationally the last four years in a row for its core  
25 curriculum; and

26 WHEREAS, CCU is an important institution, equipping graduates  
27 and an educational workforce with high ethical values and a Christ-  
28 motivated desire to serve the most vulnerable in our Colorado  
29 communities, and was reflected in Senator Armstrong's legacy; and

30 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong served as CCU's president until  
31 his death and called his work at CCU "the most significant, energizing,  
32 and rewarding work [he had] ever undertaken"; and

33 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong was described as a man of  
34 uncompromising faith, and engaged in the Great Commission by serving

1 on the board of directors for the Campus Crusade for Christ for 17 years;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong and his wife Ellen had a heart for  
4 persecuted Christians and Jews all over the world, the poor, and the  
5 unborn, and they used their influence in the public square to improve the  
6 plight of the needy, the lost, and the littlest of our brothers and sisters; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2010, Senator Armstrong launched the Western  
8 Conservative Summit in Denver, Colorado, which brings thousands of  
9 western conservatives together each year to celebrate conservative values  
10 and pass the torch to future generations; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong is heralded as one of the most  
12 influential politicians in Colorado history, hailed by members of both  
13 parties for his service to both Colorado and the country, and will be  
14 remembered for his faith, joy, and the legacy he leaves behind; now,  
15 therefore,

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

18 That, in the death of William L. Armstrong, the people of the state  
19 of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant, spiritual leader, and  
20 outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the Senate and House of  
21 Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly, do hereby extend  
22 our deep and heartfelt gratitude to the members of his family and pay  
23 tribute to a man who served the state well and faithfully.

24 *Be It Further Resolved,* That a copy of this Joint Memorial be sent  
25 to his wife, Ellen Armstrong; his children, Anne Armstrong Nordby and  
26 Wil Armstrong; his grandchildren, L. Elisabeth Armstrong, Kathryn A.  
27 Armstrong, William L. Armstrong IV, James D. Nordby, Daniel Nordby,  
28 Matthew Nordby, Benjamin Nordby, and Michael Nordby; former State  
29 Senate President John Andrews; Colorado Christian University; and  
30 Cherry Hills Community Church.