



## HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17-1001

**BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Saine and Ransom, Becker J., Beckman, Benavidez, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Everett, Exum, Foote, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Hooton, Humphrey, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Rankin, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young;**

**also SENATOR(S) Holbert and Lundberg, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.**

### MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR WILLIAM L. ARMSTRONG

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

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

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

WHEREAS, After graduating from Lincoln Northeast High School in 1954, Senator Armstrong went on to attend Tulane University and the University of Minnesota before serving in the United States National Guard from 1957 to 1963; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong was the winner of the National Taxpayers Union's "Taxpayers' Friend Award" every year since its creation in 1979, and a sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Senator Armstrong was described as a man of uncompromising faith, and engaged in the Great Commission by serving on the board of directors for the Campus Crusade for Christ for 17 years; and

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

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

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

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

That, in the death of William L. Armstrong, the people of the state of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant, spiritual leader, and outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the Senate and House of

Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt gratitude to the members of his family and pay tribute to a man who served the state well and faithfully.

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

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Crisanta Duran  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Kevin J. Grantham  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Effie Ameen  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE