



HOUSE MEMORIAL 23-1001

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lynch and Bradfield, Amabile, Armagost, Bacon, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bottoms, Bradley, Catlin, Daugherty, DeGraaf, deGruy Kennedy, Dickson, English, Epps, Evans, Frizell, Froelich, Garcia, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hamrick, Hartsook, Herod, Holtorf, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Luck, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Parenti, Pugliese, Ricks, Sharbini, Sirota, Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Vigil, Weinberg, Weissman, Willford, Wilson, Winter T., Young, McCluskie.

MEMORIALIZING REPRESENTATIVE HUGH MCKEAN.

WHEREAS, Our beloved colleague, Hugh Monroe McKean, leader of the Republican caucus and representative of Loveland, departed this life on October 30, 2022, at the age of 55; and

WHEREAS, Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 1967, he spent his boyhood on a small farm in northern Missouri, where, he said, he first learned "how to fix things"; and

WHEREAS, Eventually, Leader McKean made his way to Colorado, where he graduated from Colorado State University in 1996; and

WHEREAS, A passionate patriot, in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, he joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary as a reservist; and

WHEREAS, Self-described as a "farm boy with a servant's heart", Leader McKean worked as an independent residential contractor across Northern Colorado and was active in local government; he built homes and bridges between people, forged authentic and genuine connections, and always listened and learned; and

WHEREAS, Leader McKean served his friends, his neighbors, and his community on a charter school board and a school district master planning board and then, beginning in 2009, on the Loveland City Council for two terms, a role that showed his commitment to finding durable solutions to local and regional problems; and

WHEREAS, Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2016 to represent House District 51, Leader McKean wrote in his newsletter, "Love Where I Live", that he was "blessed ... to help shepherd our wonderful state toward greener pastures and happier days"; and

WHEREAS, Elected leader of the Colorado House Republican Caucus in 2020, Leader McKean was known not only for his dedication to the people he served, but also for his rowdy sense of humor, boundless energy, and infectious laughter, which he used to break down barriers and solve problems; and

WHEREAS, Leader McKean could argue in the well against a member's bill for hours, then offer them the warmest of hugs and link arms on the way to a committee meeting; he could be found debating policy with colleagues or chatting with children on the floor, giving them spirited tours of the Capitol and toys to play with in his office; and

WHEREAS, Raised as a Quaker, Leader McKean's personal society of friends was always expanding; whether you were on the custodial staff in the Capitol building or a member of Congress, Leader McKean saw you and he heard you, as a potential collaborator and as a friend; and

WHEREAS, More than 50 of the bills Leader McKean sponsored were signed by the Governor, including bills to support community-based public safety partnerships, promote behavioral health crisis services to school-age students, assist land developers in providing affordable housing, utilize pumped hydroelectricity generation to meet Colorado's renewable energy standard, and offer hunter education courses to seventh grade students; and

WHEREAS, Honored by a wide variety of organizations for his achievements, Leader McKean received the Faith, Family, and Freedom Award from the Centennial Institute; he was named 2021's Legislator of the Year by the Colorado BioScience Association and one of 2023's Legislators of the Year by the Colorado Chamber of Commerce; he was given the "Champion of Main Street Award" by the Independent Community Bankers of Colorado; and he won the Colorado House of Representatives' chili contest two years in a row; and

WHEREAS, Leader McKean spoke about Coloradans not in the abstract, but as real, living people with jobs, loves, and real-life successes and problems. As he said in a speech to the chamber in January 2021, "[I]n the end, the letters by our names are less important than the ideas we have. The people of Colorado just want to know that we care about them, that their voices are heard, and that we are trying our best to make their lives better and give them opportunities to thrive"; and

WHEREAS, As Leader McKean laid in state at the Colorado State Capitol, surrounded by his family and fellow lawmakers, by the staff and stakeholders who worked with him and for him, and by all others who mourned him, Weld County Commissioner Scott James reminded us to "Live like Hugh; Laugh like Hugh; Serve like Hugh; [and] Love like Hugh"; now, therefore,

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

(1) That, in the death of Hugh Monroe McKean, the people of the State of Colorado have lost a devoted public servant, outstanding citizen, and invaluable friend and colleague who will be remembered for his legacy of kindness and leadership;

(2) That we, the members of the Colorado House of Representatives, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family; and

(3) That we pay tribute to a man who served his state well and faithfully; may the memory of his laughter in the chamber and throughout the hallways, committee rooms, and even as far as the cafeteria continue to bless this building that he loved.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to Leader McKean's children, Hanna and Aiden McKean; his partner, Amy Parks, and her children, Keira, Keenan, and Kolten; his mother, Janet McKean; his sister, Summer McKean-Kershner; and his brother, Andrew McKean.

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES