



HOUSE MEMORIAL 23-1002

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

MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE MIKE MCLACHLAN.

WHEREAS, Michael "Mike" Edward McLachlan departed this life after a long illness on June 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Mike was born on April 18, 1946, in Dover, Delaware; and

WHEREAS, Mike earned his bachelor's degree from Southern Colorado State University and his law degree from the University of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, Mike's lifelong dedication to serving his community began when he joined the United States Marine Corps in 1965 and served in the Vietnam War before he was honorably discharged in 1967; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, former Attorney General Ken Salazar appointed Mike as the Colorado Solicitor General; and

WHEREAS, Mike helped champion the nation's laws regarding protections for people visiting abortion clinics when he defended a "buffer" law before the United States Supreme Court in the 2000 case *Hill vs. Colorado*. This law imposes an 8-foot "bubble" around medical workers and patients who step within 100 feet of a clinic entrance and is still in effect today; and

WHEREAS, From 2012 through 2014, Mike served as Representative for House District 59, during which he served on several committees, including the Agriculture, Judiciary, and Interim Wildfire Review Committees; and

WHEREAS, Mike sponsored 22 bills in the years he served as Representative, 20 of which were signed into law, and survived a 2013 recall attempt by gun rights advocates who opposed his stance on gun safety legislation; and

WHEREAS, Mike sponsored several widely-supported and successful bills, one of which allowed farmers and ranchers a state tax credit of up to \$5,000 for food they donate to hunger relief organizations, and another that allowed charter schools to hire armed security guards amid battles over gun control in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Mike was also a former president of the Durango Rotary Club, served on the Southern Ute Tribe Environmental Commission, and served as the chairman of the Judicial Performance Commission for the 6th Judicial District and as the chairman of the Supreme Court Grievance Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mike left the state legislature and returned to his private law practice after he was unseated by Republican J. Paul Brown in the 2014 mid-term elections. Brown was later defeated by Mike's own wife, Barbara McLachlan, in the 2016 election, and she continues to hold the seat for House District 59; and

WHEREAS, Mike was a public servant at heart and inspired many to connect with and advocate for others. Governor Jared Polis said of Mike in 2021, "Mike always stood up for what was right, even if that was the hard thing to do. His military service, professional work and extensive commitment to volunteer service in his Southwest Colorado community made our state better, and he will be dearly missed. My heart goes out to Barbara, his children Brian and Kate, and his entire family."; and

WHEREAS, Mike McLachlan was a devoted father, husband, friend, and advocate who will be remembered for his hard work, dedication, and accomplishments; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Colorado House of Representatives, pay tribute to Mike's long legacy of service and 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 Barbara McLachlan and Barbara and Mike's children, Brian and Kate McLachlan.

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES