



HOUSE MEMORIAL 23-1004

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Mabrey and deGruy Kennedy, Bacon, Boesenecker, Brown, Daugherty, Dickson, Froelich, Garcia, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hamrick, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Lynch, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Sharbini, Snyder, Soper, Story, Titone, Valdez, Weissman, Willford, Woodrow, Young, McCluskie.

MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JEANNE LABUDA.

WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague, Jeanne Labuda, a past member of the Colorado House of Representatives, departed this life on July 25, 2022, at the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, Representative Labuda was born on February 6, 1947, in Agua Dulce, Texas, to Lillian and Steve Labuda; and

WHEREAS, Representative Labuda graduated from Henrietta M. King High School in Kingsville, Texas, and went on to attend Texas A&I University, now known as Texas A&M University-Kingsville, graduating in 1968 with a degree in English and political science; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong enthusiast of traveling and experiencing the world, Representative Labuda volunteered with the Peace Corps after graduation and spent over two years as a high school teacher in Liberia in West Africa, during which period she trekked across a southern portion of the Sahara desert and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro; and

WHEREAS, Representative Labuda returned to the United States to work and to continue her education, and she met her future husband, Michael Taber, whom she married in 1977; and

WHEREAS, After marrying, Representative Labuda moved with her husband to Colorado and earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1989, and soon after she joined the Colorado Attorney General's Office as Assistant Attorney General until 1993; and

WHEREAS, In Colorado, Representative Labuda also quickly became extensively involved in serving the community through many guiding roles, such as a Girl Scout leader, a member of the Community Advisory Board for the Father Ed Judy House, the board president of the Harvey Park Improvement Association, a southwest Denver community liaison for the mayor, a member of the Denver Planning Board under two mayors, and the president of Denver's chapter of the American Association of University Women; and

WHEREAS, From 2007 through 2014, Representative Labuda served four terms in the state House of Representatives as the state Representative for House District 1, representing the citizens of Arapahoe, Denver, and Jefferson counties over the course of her time with the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, While serving as a state Representative, Representative Labuda was a member of several House committees, including the Finance committee, as Vice-chair; the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs committee, as Vice-chair; the Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources committee; the Local Government committee; and the Appropriations committee, as well as several joint, statutory, and interim committees, most notably the Committee on Legal Services as both Vice-chair and Chair throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Representative Labuda believed in quality public education and health, civic responsibility, empowerment of women and girls, and, as someone with a deep and abounding love for the outdoors, environmental policy; to that end, Representative Labuda sponsored bills concerning physical and mental health and medical care, childhood and higher education, public safety, land use, and parks and wilderness protection; and

WHEREAS, Representative Labuda lived with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) toward the end of her life, but she will be remembered for the adventures she embarked on in the natural world; among her many accomplishments, Representative Labuda sailed off of the East Coast and in the Caribbean, and she was known for climbing mountains, not only Mount Kilimanjaro but also the Sierras in southern California, the Davis mountains in western Texas, and even many of Colorado's own fourteeners; and

WHEREAS, In the words of her family, Representative Labuda was a "soul-centered" individual, a person who, with "her grit and her positivity", always "saw the beauty in people everywhere she could"; and

WHEREAS, Representative Labuda was a devoted public servant who will be remembered for her 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, in the death of Jeanne Labuda, the people of the State of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the Colorado House of Representatives, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family and pay tribute to a woman who served her state well and faithfully.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to Michael Taber, Representative Labuda's husband; Danica Taber and Emily Taber, her daughters; Therese Burgamy, her sister; Joe Labuda, her brother; Becky Norrell, her stepsister; Janice Labuda, Marilyn White, and Catherine Taber, her sisters-in-law; Daniel Taber and Patrick Taber, her brothers-in-law; Laura Wilson and Ann Elizabeth Labuda, her nieces; Steve Labuda, Paul Labuda, and Frank Labuda, her nephews; Michael Makovy, Beverly Reid, Carole Lomerson, and Joyce Johnson, her cousins; Dawn Taber-Cayer, Debbie Taber, and Scott Taber, her cousins-in-law; former Representatives Sue Schafer, Su Ryden, Jeanne Faatz, and Fran Coleman and former Senator Jeanne Nicholson, her colleagues; and Fernando Aleman, Rosanne Maltese, Benita Campbell, Peg Malchow-Sass, Emily Ward, Marti Davidson, Charlie Davidson, Debbie Darrow, Ian Anderson, and John Robbins, her friends.

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES