

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

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. M23-0668.02 Andrew Webster x2044

**SJM23-003**

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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23-003**

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR DENNIS**  
102 **GALLAGHER.**

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1           WHEREAS, The Honorable Dennis Joseph Patrick Gallagher  
2 departed this life on April 22, 2022, at the age of 82; and

3           WHEREAS, The Honorable Gallagher was a beloved past member  
4 of the Colorado House of Representatives from 1970 to 1974, and the  
5 Colorado Senate from 1974 to 1995, served on the Denver City Council  
6 from 1995 to 2003, and was elected as Auditor for the City and County  
7 of Denver, serving from 2003 until 2015; and

8           WHEREAS, The Honorable Gallagher was born in 1939 in  
9 Denver, Colorado, to first-generation Irish-American mother and father  
10 Nellie Flaherty and William Gallagher Jr., and attended Holy Family High

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

1 School in north Denver; and

2 WHEREAS, The Honorable Gallagher's life was transformed by  
3 the Sisters of Loretto at Holy Family High School in North Denver,  
4 whose coaching led him to achieve the distinction of national runner-up  
5 in The Voice of Democracy Oratorical Contest; and

6 WHEREAS, The Honorable Gallagher went on to Catholic  
7 University in Washington, D.C. on a J.K. Mullen Scholarship where he  
8 received graduate degrees in speech, linguistics, and comparative  
9 philology and wrote a thesis on a 1399 Cornish Medieval Miracle play;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, It was during his time in Washington that The  
12 Honorable Gallagher worked on campaigns for John F. Kennedy and "felt  
13 the warmth of John F. Kennedy's torch"; and

14 WHEREAS, The Honorable Gallagher was an important figure in  
15 the Irish community in Denver, hosting a well-known St. Patrick's Day  
16 celebration as well as coauthoring the book *Irish Denver: Images of*  
17 *America* with his friends Tom Noel and James Patrick Walsh; and

18 WHEREAS, The Honorable Gallagher was perhaps best known  
19 for the amendment named after him, the "Gallagher Amendment", which  
20 passed the legislature in 1982 and was intended to lower residential  
21 property taxes; and

22 WHEREAS, The Honorable Gallagher worked with Mayor John  
23 Hickenlooper, who he helped get his start in politics, to spearhead the  
24 complete reformation of the Denver Auditor's Office, which expanded the  
25 purview of the office and allowed for performance-based audits; and

26 WHEREAS, The Honorable Gallagher was a devoted public  
27 servant who worked well with everyone around him, and who was known  
28 by his constituents to be an approachable and visible legislator who could  
29 be seen walking his districts and stopping to talk with whomever he ran  
30 into, introducing himself. Dennis impressed foreign visitors by greeting  
31 them in their native language, amazingly in 23 different tongues. He also  
32 astonished tourists and locals by bursting into the Colorado state song,  
33 A.J. Flynn's "Where the Columbines Grow", and always reminded people,  
34 "You have to ask for the vote"; and

1           WHEREAS, The Honorable Gallagher was known for his personal  
2 motto, which was Athenian in origin and came from his love of the  
3 classics, "Leave the city a better place than you found it"; and

4           WHEREAS, And as Tom Noel's heartfelt tribute to him said,  
5 "With Dennis gone, who will enlighten city council and legislative  
6 journals with quotations from poets such as William Shakespeare and  
7 Gerard Manly Hopkins? Dennis was a hopeless bibliophile who never  
8 passed up a book sale or a library. "Every book, is a sacred obligation",  
9 he loved to say. Not only the people of Denver, but thousands of students  
10 at Regis University where Dennis taught speech, persuasion, and media  
11 for almost 50 years, will miss him. He especially loved the summer  
12 classes he took to Ireland. To those who think no politician can be honest,  
13 Dennis Gallagher was the answer"; and

14           WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the  
15 seventy-fourth General Assembly, pay tribute to the dedicated service of  
16 Honorable Dennis Joseph Patrick Gallagher and express our deep regret  
17 and sorrow occasioned by his death; now, therefore,

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

21           That, in the death of Honorable Dennis Joseph Patrick Gallagher,  
22 the people of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and  
23 outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the seventy-fourth  
24 General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to  
25 the members of his family and pay tribute to a man who served his state  
26 well and faithfully.

27           *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent  
28 to Danny Gallagher, his son, and Tim Gallagher, his brother.