



SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23-003

BY SENATOR(S) Gonzales, Baisley, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Liston, Lundeen, Moreno, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Sullivan, Van Winkle, Will, Winter F., Zenzinger;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gonzales-Gutierrez, Amabile, Bacon, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Brown, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, Dickson, Duran, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindstedt, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, McCluskie, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Ricks, Snyder, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Weissman, Woodrow, Young.

MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND
SENATOR DENNIS GALLAGHER.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That, in the death of Honorable Dennis Joseph Patrick Gallagher, the people of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the seventy-fourth General Assembly, do 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 Joint Memorial be sent to Danny Gallagher, his son, and Tim Gallagher, his brother.

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES