

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

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. M23-0688.01 Olivia Nesselroade x2670

**SM23-002**

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**SENATE MEMORIAL 23-002**

101     **MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR RICHARD (DICK) SOASH.**

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1           WHEREAS, Richard Morton (Dick) Soash, the former Senator,  
2 departed this life on October 1, 2019, at the age of 78 in Homosassa,  
3 Florida; and

4           WHEREAS, Senator Soash was born on August 3, 1941, in  
5 Steamboat Springs, Colorado, to Irvin and Nellie Soash, the youngest  
6 Soash child after two older sisters; and

7           WHEREAS, Senator Soash graduated from Steamboat Springs  
8 High School and later graduated in the top five of his class at Colorado  
9 State University where he earned degrees in both English and German, in  
10 which language Senator Soash was fluent; and

11           WHEREAS, In his twenties, Senator Soash attended a political  
12 meeting held for former United States Representative Wayne Aspinall,  
13 who was from Palisade, Colorado, and represented Colorado's fourth  
14 district, and Senator Soash decided after the meeting that he wanted to  
15 learn the art of public speaking; and

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           WHEREAS, An old-school farmer and rancher, Senator Soash  
2 began reading about political issues and rehearsed speeches on his tractor,  
3 accompanied by his daughter, Stacey Poulsen, with whom he shared a  
4 love of foreign language and travel, as his primary audience and source  
5 of feedback; and

6           WHEREAS, Senator Soash became involved in party politics as  
7 a Democrat and worked as a precinct committee person before running  
8 for office; and

9           WHEREAS, Senator Soash was first elected to the Colorado  
10 Senate in 1976, where he served from 1977 to 1984, representing the  
11 citizens of district 31 for the first seven years and district 8 for his final  
12 year in the Colorado Senate; and

13           WHEREAS, During his time as a member of the Colorado General  
14 Assembly, Senator Soash served on the Agriculture, Natural Resources,  
15 and Energy committee; the Business Affairs and Labor committee; the  
16 Local Government committee; and the Transportation committee; and

17           WHEREAS, Representing Colorado's leading coal mining district,  
18 Senator Soash introduced multiple bills on mine safety, both for  
19 underground mines and for surface mines, and saw water storage in  
20 Colorado as a similarly vital issue for the Western Slope; and

21           WHEREAS, Former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb dubbed  
22 Senator Soash "The Cowboy" and knew Senator Soash to be a  
23 straight-shooter with a unique ability to analyze city issues and to work  
24 with other legislators from rural districts; and

25           WHEREAS, In this spirit, Senator Soash was quoted by the *Three*  
26 *Wire Winter*, a Steamboat Springs High School student magazine that  
27 captured the oral histories of prominent Routt county citizens between  
28 1976 and 1988, as saying, "Any time life is filled with problems, it's  
29 challenging, but that's what makes it so fascinating because we get to  
30 solve or get a hand in finding a solution to life's quandaries"; and

31           WHEREAS, Senator Soash is remembered by many, including his  
32 children, as a gregarious public speaker who could deliver an "off the  
33 cuff" speech, sounding natural and unrehearsed while skillfully conveying  
34 his points; and

1           WHEREAS, Senator Soash was incredibly proud of his  
2 involvement in the building of parks, schools, and reservoirs; and

3           WHEREAS, After his years as an elected official, Senator Soash  
4 worked as a lobbyist for the city and county of Denver, RAG American  
5 Coal, Phelps Dodge Corporation, the Intermountain Rural Electric  
6 Association, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,  
7 among others; and

8           WHEREAS, As a member of the Capitol's lobbying crowd,  
9 Senator Soash continued to be a well-respected fixture at the Capitol,  
10 focused on solving problems and supporting unions; and

11           WHEREAS, Senator Soash was a life-long practicing Catholic and  
12 attended Mother of God Catholic Church in Denver, as well as a life-long  
13 Denver Broncos fan, enjoying games as a season ticket holder throughout  
14 his adult life; and

15           WHEREAS, In his free time, Senator Soash loved working on the  
16 Soash Centennial Ranch, which ranch earned the state "centennial"  
17 designation signifying one hundred years in operation, and is remembered  
18 by many, including his sons, Richard Jr. and Nick, as having a legendary  
19 sense of humor; and

20           WHEREAS, Senator Soash was preceded in death by his parents  
21 and his beloved wife, Suzy Soash, who passed away in 2013; and

22           WHEREAS, Senator Soash is survived by his two sisters, Maxine  
23 and Barbara; his children, Curtis, William, Richard Jr., Josephine, Stacey,  
24 and Nick; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and  
25 great-great-grandchildren; now, therefore,

26           *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General*  
27 *Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

28           That, in the death of Senator Dick Soash, the people of the state of  
29 Colorado have lost a devoted public servant and an outstanding citizen,  
30 and that we, the members of the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General  
31 Assembly, pay tribute to Dick Soash for his years of dedicated public  
32 service and do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the  
33 members of his family.

1            *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Memorial be sent to  
2            Senator Soash's sisters, Maxine Cornwell and Barbara Greffenius; his  
3            children, Curtis Soash, William Soash, Richard Soash Jr., Josephine  
4            Pacheco, Stacey Poulsen, and Nick Soash.