



SENATE MEMORIAL 23-002

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

MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR RICHARD (DICK) SOASH.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, An old-school farmer and rancher, Senator Soash began reading about political issues and rehearsed speeches on his tractor, accompanied by his daughter, Stacey Poulsen, with whom he shared a

love of foreign language and travel, as his primary audience and source of feedback; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Senator Soash was incredibly proud of his involvement

in the building of parks, schools, and reservoirs; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE