



SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 24-004

BY SENATOR(S) Simpson, Baisley, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Liston, Lundeen, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Rodriguez, Smallwood, Sullivan, Van Winkle, Will, Winter F., Zenzinger, Fenberg;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McLachlan, Amabile, Bird, Boesenecker, Bradley, Brown, Catlin, Clifford, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Herod, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Marvin, Mauro, McCormick, Ortiz, Rutinel, Sirota, Snyder, Story, Taggart, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Weissman, Willford, Wilson, Young.

MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND  
SENATOR JIM DYER.

WHEREAS, Jim Dyer, the former Representative and Senator, departed this life on April 29, 2023, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, Edward James Dyer, Jr., known to everyone as Jim, was born December 9, 1937, in St. Joseph, Missouri, to Edward James Dyer, Sr., and Eleanor Grace Brown Dyer; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dyer was raised in Kansas and graduated from Hayden High School in Topeka, Kansas, where he played football and was student council president; and

WHEREAS, After high school, he attended St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kansas, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature in 1959; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from college, Senator Dyer attended Officer Candidate School; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, Senator Dyer began his first tour in Vietnam as a lieutenant in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, He served two more tours in Vietnam after transferring to the United States Marines in 1964 and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel; and

WHEREAS, During his three tours in Vietnam, Senator Dyer was awarded the Soldier's Medal, three Bronze Stars, the Air Medal, the Gallantry Cross with Palm from the Republic of Vietnam, and the Order of Military Merit from the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, To the men who served with Senator Dyer, his care for others was a distinguishing characteristic; he made it known to his troops that he was there for them; and

WHEREAS, General Ron Fogleman, former chief of staff of the United States Air Force, called Senator Dyer a "very loyal guy when it came to taking care of his troops and not forgetting them ... he just never forgot his troops"; and

WHEREAS, On December 10, 1966, Senator Dyer married Shari Ferguson, and they had three sons, Jim in 1968, Andy in 1970, and Matt in 1974; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, while serving in the Marines, Senator Dyer attended the U.S. Naval War College; and

WHEREAS, After retiring from the armed forces, Senator Dyer and his wife moved with their three sons to Durango, Colorado, where he sold heavy equipment while pursuing a second degree in career counseling from Fort Lewis College; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dyer graduated from Fort Lewis College in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in career counseling; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dyer was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1988 to represent District 59, which includes Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan counties; he was re-elected five times and served in the House for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, Senator Dyer was elected to the Colorado Senate, representing District 6, comprising Archuleta, Delta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel counties; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dyer had friends on both sides of the aisle and cared deeply about his district; and

WHEREAS, During his time in the General Assembly, Senator Dyer served on many committees, including the House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources committee; the House Appropriations committee; the House Business Affairs and Labor committee; the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs committee; the Senate Transportation committee; the Senate Government, Veterans, and Military Relations committee; and the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources committee, on which he served as chair; and

WHEREAS, Both during and after his terms in the Colorado House and Senate, Senator Dyer wrote a weekly column for the Durango Herald, often discussing what was happening at the capitol; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Governor Bill Owens appointed Senator Dyer to serve on the Public Utilities Commission, at which point he resigned his seat in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dyer was a member of the Marine Corps Association, the National Rifle Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, He loved his brother Marines and returned to Vietnam after he left the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dyer was known for his care for others, his loyalty to his constituents and colleagues, and his deep patriotism; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dyer characterized himself as a poet/warrior, and others describe him as a man who cared about all the right things, who made a positive impact in the places he went, who made a difference, and who was loved and respected; 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 Jim Dyer, the people of the State of Colorado have lost a devoted public servant and an outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly, pay tribute to Jim Dyer for 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 Joint Memorial be sent to Senator Dyer's wife, Shari Dyer, and his sons, Jim Dyer, Andy Dyer, and Matt Dyer.

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Steve Fenberg  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Julie McCluskie  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES