

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M16-0871.01 Vanessa Cleaver x4636

SM16-002

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Tate,

Senate Committees

SENATE MEMORIAL 16-002

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR CARL MICHAEL WILLIAMS.**

1 WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague, Carl Michael
2 Williams, a past member of the Colorado State Senate, departed this life
3 on November 27, 2015, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, The fourth son of a prominent ranching family,
5 Senator Williams was born on Friday, November 9, 1928, to the late John
6 Walter and Eleanor (Powers) Williams in Douglas, Wyoming; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Williams was raised and educated in
8 Douglas, graduating from Converse County High School where he went
9 on to attend the University of Wyoming, graduated from the University
10 of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, and later received his Juris Doctor from
11 the University of Wyoming; and

12 WHEREAS, During the Korean Conflict, Senator Williams
13 enrolled with the Wyoming Air National Guard serving from September
14 14, 1950, to March 31, 1951; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Williams was called to active duty in the

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 United States Air Force, serving from April 1, 1951, to December 31,
2 1952, where he flew both the famed P-51 Mustang and America's first jet
3 fighter, the F-80 Shooting Star, thus beginning his lifelong love and
4 passion for aviation; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1957, Senator Williams fell in love with Ginny
6 Williams, a fiery Virginia school teacher who came West to make her
7 mark in the world, and moved to Denver and had two children, Elle and
8 Mike; and

9 WHEREAS, Also in that year, after practicing law for fewer than
10 four months, Senator Williams partnered with cable legend Bill Daniels
11 and became one of the founding fathers of America's budding cable
12 television industry; and

13 WHEREAS, After branching out on his own in the early 1960s,
14 Senator Williams went on to build Televents, Inc., with systems
15 throughout Wyoming, Colorado, California, Montana, Pennsylvania, and
16 Florida, and he eventually sold Televents, Inc., in 1986 to friend and
17 fellow Coloradan Bob Magness, making it part of Tele-Communication,
18 Inc., better known as TCI, which went on to become the largest cable TV
19 provider in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, While building Televents, Inc., Senator Williams was
21 elected to the Colorado State Senate in 1968 where he served as the
22 Chairman of the State Senate Affairs Committee and later went on to
23 serve as Chairman of the Colorado Republican Party from 1975 to 1977,
24 providing leadership and resolve in uncertain times, and remaining active
25 in state and national politics for the rest of his life; and

26 WHEREAS, A tireless philanthropist, Senator Williams actively
27 pursued and fought for the advancement of ethics and values in
28 education, which lead him to establish and fund programs including the
29 Carl M. Williams Chair for Ethics at the University of Wyoming and the
30 Carl M. Williams Institute of Ethics and Values at the University of
31 Denver; and

32 WHEREAS, Always an advocate for higher education, Senator
33 Williams generously provided college tuition for a myriad of young
34 people, and assisted in providing funds for a skywalk between the
35 Douglas Senior Citizens Center and Riverside Plaza apartments, a wood
36 floor at the Douglas High School Gymnasium, donating to capital

1 construction at Memorial Hospital of Converse County, and many other
2 endeavors in his beloved home of Douglas, Wyoming; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1989, Senator Williams founded the Foundation
4 for Drug Education and served on numerous educational, artistic,
5 medical, and legal boards of directors during the years; and

6 WHEREAS, Among the many charities that were dear to him were
7 the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, from which he
8 received a lifetime achievement award in 2004, the Arthritis Foundation,
9 the Greenway Foundation, the Episcopal Church, and the Colorado
10 Symphony; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1997, Senator Williams was inducted into the
12 Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Williams' deep-rooted passion for biplanes
14 could be traced back to his father, who owned an Alexander Eaglerock,
15 a plane manufactured in Colorado Springs. So beloved was the Eaglerock
16 to Senator Williams that he restored not one but two examples, the first
17 of which is on permanent display in Concourse B at Denver International
18 Airport, and the second at Wings Over the Rockies' new Centennial
19 Airport facility; and

20 WHEREAS, Even during retirement, Senator Williams, well into
21 his seventies, continued to pursue his love of aviation, competing at the
22 intermediate level in national and aerobatic competitions flying the
23 legendary Pitts Special Biplane; and

24 WHEREAS, The most important things in life to Senator
25 Williams, and the three things that always rose to the surface with him,
26 were civic responsibility, family, and faith; and

27 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the Colorado
28 State Senate, pay tribute to the dedicated service of Senator Williams and
29 express our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by his death; now,
30 therefore,

31 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
32 *of the State of Colorado:*

33 That, in the death of Carl Michael Williams, the people of the state

1 of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen,
2 and that we, the members of the Colorado State Senate of the Seventieth
3 General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to
4 the members of his family and pay tribute to a man who served the state
5 well and faithfully.

6 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be sent to
7 Senator Williams' wife Ginny Williams, his daughter Elle P. Williams,
8 and son Mike Williams.