

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M24-1009.01 Faith Marcovecchio x4331

SJM24-003

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Senate Committees

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 24-003

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR KEITH KING.**

1 WHEREAS, Former Colorado Representative, Senator,
2 businessman, and education leader Keith King was born in Tekoa,
3 Washington on March 12, 1948; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator King began his lifelong dedication to
5 education by earning a bachelor's degree in industrial education at
6 Colorado State University - Pueblo in 1970 and a master's degree in
7 vocational education at Oregon State University in 1976; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator King married his wife, Sandi, in 1972, and
9 together they had two sons, Jeremy and Brandon, and eventually five
10 wonderful grandchildren; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator King began his career teaching high school

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 in California and Oregon in the 1970s; during this time, he and his
2 1976-77 Industrial Mechanics students took on an impressive class
3 project: Building a house on a job site; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1977, Senator King returned to Colorado and
5 started a new phase in his life as owner of Waterbed Palace, a business
6 that thrived under his leadership, eventually expanding to 18 stores in six
7 states; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1991, Senator King was elected to the Cheyenne
9 Mountain school board, and after the end of his term, in 1995, he helped
10 found Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy, serving as its president
11 from 1995 until 1998; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator King began his legislative career in the
13 Colorado House of Representatives in 1998. He served four terms and
14 was elected Assistant Majority Leader in 2001 and Majority Leader in
15 2003. As a testament to his leadership, he was named Legislator of the
16 Year in 2002 by the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and in
17 2003 by the Economic Development Council of Colorado; and

18 WHEREAS, Carrying his passion for education to the statehouse,
19 then-Representative King soon began to build on his predecessors' work
20 on the charter school system. In his very first session as a legislator, he
21 sponsored two important bills to improve charter school operations. In
22 sessions that followed, he also focused on the funding systems for
23 education, sponsoring the College Opportunity Fund bill and the annual
24 school finance bill; and

25 WHEREAS, After two years away from the General Assembly, he
26 ran for the Colorado State Senate and was elected to represent District 12
27 in 2008. Senator King would go on to serve four years in that role; and

28 WHEREAS, Senator King was known for his attention to detail as
29 a legislator and earned the title of "Amendment King" during his time at
30 the State Capitol. "No one read bills more thoroughly than King", said
31 former Senator Evie Hudak, "with plenty of amendments to follow"; and

32 WHEREAS, In 2012, upon King's retirement from the Senate,
33 then-Senator Mike Johnson said, "[Senator King] has done as much for
34 education policy in ... the last 14 years as anyone in the state, both on the
35 ground, running a school, and working in education policy"; and

1 WHEREAS, Current legislators continue to admire Senator King
2 and his legacy, such as Representative Don Wilson, who called Senator
3 King "a humble and hard-working man that so many of us looked up to.
4 Keith had an amazingly positive impact on Colorado that will not soon be
5 forgotten"; and

6 WHEREAS, When this dedicated policymaker left the statehouse,
7 he continued his public service on the Colorado Springs City Council and
8 on numerous boards and planning councils for charter schools throughout
9 the state; and

10 WHEREAS, Keith's goal was to honor his Lord and Savior, Jesus
11 Christ, by his favorite scripture, Psalms 71:14-18: "As for me, I will
12 always have hope; I will praise you more and more. My mouth will tell
13 of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long--though I know
14 not how to relate them all. I will come and proclaim your mighty acts,
15 Sovereign Lord; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone. Since
16 my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your
17 marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my
18 God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to
19 all who are to come"; now, therefore,

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

23 That we, the Colorado General Assembly, honor Senator Keith
24 King for his many years of service to our state and the impact his work
25 will have for generations to come.

26 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent
27 to Sandi King, Jeremy King, and Brandon King.