

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

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. M24-0902.01 Rebecca Hausmann x2172

**SJM24-004**

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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 24-004**

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR JIM DYER.**

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

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

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

9           WHEREAS, After high school, he attended St. Benedict's College  
10 in Atchison, Kansas, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English  
11 literature in 1959; 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, After graduating from college, Senator Dyer attended  
2 Officer Candidate School; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28           WHEREAS, Senator Dyer graduated from Fort Lewis College in  
29 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in career counseling; and

30           WHEREAS, Senator Dyer was elected to the Colorado House of  
31 Representatives in 1988 to represent District 59, which includes

1 Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan counties; he was  
2 re-elected five times and served in the House for 12 years; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Senator Dyer characterized himself as a poet/warrior,  
31 and others describe him as a man who cared about all the right things,  
32 who made a positive impact in the places he went, who made a  
33 difference, and who was loved and respected; now, therefore,

1            *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General*  
2 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*  
3 *concurring herein:*

4            That, in the death of Jim Dyer, the people of the State of Colorado  
5 have lost a devoted public servant and an outstanding citizen, and that we,  
6 the members of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly, pay tribute to Jim  
7 Dyer for years of dedicated public service and do hereby extend our deep  
8 and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family.

9            *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent  
10 to Senator Dyer's wife, Shari Dyer, and his sons, Jim Dyer, Andy Dyer,  
11 and Matt Dyer.