



SENATE MEMORIAL 24-001

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

MEMORIALIZING FORMER SENATOR HUGH C. FOWLER.

WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague, Hugh C. Fowler, a past member of the Colorado Senate, departed this life on October 25, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fowler was born in Evanston, Illinois and attended Evanston Township High School; and

WHEREAS, After a year at the University of Wisconsin, where he entered the V-12 Navy College Training Program in 1943, Senator Fowler moved to Boulder via railroad in 1944 and enrolled at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he was a member of the Navy ROTC and obtained his bachelor's degree in business; and

WHEREAS, In 1945, Senator Fowler was commissioned as an ensign from the Navy ROTC, served in Guam from 1945 to 1946 and in the South China Sea, aboard the USS Bremerton, from 1951 to 1954, and was honorably discharged as a lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, Senator Fowler ran for and was elected to the Colorado Senate where he represented Arapahoe County from 1969 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, During his time in the Senate, Senator Fowler served as

the Chair of the Senate Education Committee for eight years, where he spearheaded legislation that aligned state policy with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and tirelessly advocated for a voucher system, alternate funding streams, and higher teacher salaries in public education; and

WHEREAS, Some of Senator Fowler's greatest legislative achievements include his first bill, which saved the 65-mile narrow gauge Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad along the Colorado-New Mexico border from extinction, and his bill prohibiting smoking in public places; and

WHEREAS, As a legislator, Senator Fowler was known for his honesty, intellect, and creativity, and as Bob Ewegen, a journalist for the Denver Post, said, "[Senator Fowler] was gadfly, he was pest, he was point man, he was roadblock, but he was never conventional... he leaves his monument, not in Colorado's lawbooks, but in the minds of its people"; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fowler possessed a deep appreciation for the State Capitol building and championed its preservation through projects to restore the Senate and House chambers to their original design; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fowler was a devout member of Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Englewood for 20 years, where he taught Sunday school and sang bass in the church choir; and

WHEREAS, Aside from his legislative accomplishments, Senator Fowler was a successful business owner of Fowler & More & Company, a regent-at-large for the University of Colorado from 1983 to 1989, a Presidential Scholars Commissioner, and the Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 344 in Littleton; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fowler was preceded in death by his twin brother, F. Parker Fowler Jr., in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fowler is survived by his beloved wife of 74 years, Shirley, his daughter Laurie, his son Chuck, three grandchildren, and six 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 Hugh C. Fowler, the people of the State of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the Colorado Senate, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family and pay tribute to a man who served his state well and faithfully.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to Senator Fowler's wife Shirley S. Fowler, his daughter Laurie Beckel and son-in-law John Crawford, his son Chuck Fowler and daughter-in-law Linda Lee Fowler, his granddaughter Emily Sheldon and her husband David Sheldon, his granddaughter Yaisa Banek and her husband Nathan Banek, his grandson Nathan Beckel and his wife Alia Haley, and his great-grandchildren Mya Banek, Lise Banek, Luka Banek, Maxwell Fowler Sheldon, Spencer Charles Sheldon, and Levi Hugh Sheldon.

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE