PRESIDENTS AND SPEAKERS OF THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A BIOGRAPHICAL PORTRAIT FROM 1876

Denver, Colorado

2022 Edition

Introduction

The Presidents and Speakers in this book are listed in chronological order by the years they held the office of President and/or Speaker. The President's term is four years and the Speaker's term is two years. Some of the Presidents and Speakers did not serve full terms, while others served more than one term.

The first legislative session met from November 1, 1876, through March 20, 1877, and the succeeding sessions met every two years in the odd numbered years: 1879, 1881, 1883, etc., until 1950. Even though the Colorado General Assembly started to convene annually in 1950, the dates for the terms of office for both the President and Speaker begin on an odd-numbered year.

Constitutional conventions and the transformation to statehood. As early as April of 1859, pioneers who had traveled to Cherry Creek in search of gold petitioned the United States Congress to create a territory for the area that would become Colorado. After a failed attempt to create the Territory of Jefferson, settlers in the gold fields remained under the jurisdiction of the Kansas Territory from 1859 to 1861. On February 26, 1861, Congress passed an organic act that established the Territory of Colorado. The new territory was constituted mainly from the western portion of the Kansas Territory, as well as smaller segments of the Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico territories. During the next 15 years, from 1861 to 1876, citizens of the Colorado Territory made three attempts to attain statehood, in 1864, 1865, and 1876.

On August 1, 1876, President Ulysses Grant signed the proclamation that admitted the state of Colorado to the Union. A Republican state convention was held in Pueblo on August 23, and a Democratic state convention met in Manitou Springs on August 29, to prepare slates of candidates. The general election was held on October 3, 1876, and the first Colorado General Assembly convened on November 1, 1876.

Elections and term of office. Colorado general elections are held on the first Tuesday, following the first Monday in November in every even-numbered year, with the exception of the first election in October 1876. Since 1876, representatives have been elected every two years and senators have been elected every four years on a staggered basis.

Legislators are sworn into office on the first day of the regular session immediately following their election. A senator serves for four years, and a representative serves for two years. Although terms of office officially expire in January, the dates of the office used in these biographies correspond to a legislative biennium or quadrennium.

Following the general election, presiding officers for the Colorado House of Representatives and the Senate are elected per the constitution. The members of the House elect one of their members as Speaker. Up until 1974, the Lieutenant Governor served as the President of the Senate. In 1974, Article V, Section 10 of the state constitution was amended to grant the Senate the right to elect one of its own members as President.

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Lafayette Head (1825 - 1897)

Home: Conejos
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1876 - 1878

Lafayette Head was born April 19, 1825, in Howard County, Missouri. He was educated in Missouri common schools. In August of 1846, Head enlisted in the Army and served under Colonel Sterling Price in the Mexican War. Upon completion of his military service in 1849, Head settled in northern New Mexico and became a merchant in Abiquiu, Rio Arriba County. While Head lived in the New Mexico Territory, he held various official positions. In 1850, he was appointed deputy United States Marshall and for three years served in northern New Mexico Territory. Head was elected sheriff of Rio Arriba County in 1851 and served for two years. He served as sheriff and as Marshall concurrently for two years. He was also named as agent for the Jicarrilla Apaches and Capote Utes in 1852.

For several sessions, Head was elected to the New Mexico territorial legislature, which generally met during the winter months each year. He was first elected in 1853 to represent Rio Arriba County while residing in Abiquiu. After completing his term in 1854, Head was influential in establishing the settlement of Guadalupe in the northern portion of Taos County. Upon the resignation of Juan Benito Valdez, Head was elected to the council of the New Mexico territorial legislature and represented Taos County for the 1856-1857 session. He was re-elected in 1857 and in 1858. During the 1858-1859 session, Head became President of the council. At the end of the 1859 session, he became an agent of the Tabeguache Utes, a position he held until 1868.

While living near the original settlement of Guadalupe in the Conejos area, Head's home came under the jurisdiction of the newly formed Colorado Territory established in 1861. He was elected to the Tenth Colorado Territorial Council in 1873 and served during 1874. He later represented the Conejos area in Colorado's state constitutional convention, held from December 20, 1875, to March 15, 1876. Head was elected Lieutenant Governor of Colorado in 1876 and held that position through 1878. He returned to Conejos in 1879 to continue his business interests and he died in Denver on March 8, 1897.

Horace A.W. Tabor (1879 - 1899)

Home: Leadville
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1879 - 1882

Horace Tabor was born in Holland, Vermont, on November 26, 1830. Raised on a farm, he attended Vermont country schools and later worked as a stonecutter. In 1855, he moved to Kansas to homestead. While in Kansas, he was elected to the Free Soil House of Representatives of the Topeka Legislature in 1856.

A lack of income from farming eventually led Tabor to search for more lucrative interests. Rumors of mineral wealth in the western Kansas Territory convinced him to move to Denver in 1859. During the next 20 years, he supplemented his search for mineral wealth as a merchant and postmaster of several mining settlements. He began prospecting near Golden and later in the Pikes Peak region. In the spring of 1860, Tabor continued his mining endeavors at California Gulch. In November of that year, Tabor represented California Gulch's upper district in the extralegal Jefferson territorial legislature. In 1862, Tabor moved to Lauret City, which became known as Buckskin Joe. He lived there for seven years, and for a short time was superintendent of the Park County schools. In the spring of 1868, he returned to the California Gulch area and settled in Oro City. While in Oro City, he was elected treasurer of Lake County. Tabor remained in Oro City until 1877, when he moved approximately two miles to the settlement later known as Leadville. On January 10, 1878, Tabor and four other men were appointed to organize a city government. He was elected the first mayor of Leadville and served until April 1879.

In April of 1878, Tabor grubstaked George Hook and August Rische. Hook and Rische discovered the Little Pittsburgh silver vein, which became the basis of Tabor's wealth. With the income from his share of the Little Pittsburgh mine, Tabor embarked upon his career as an entrepreneur. He helped to establish the Bank of Leadville and to incorporate the Leadville Telephone Company. He was also on the board of directors of the First National Bank of Denver.

While he was mayor of Leadville, Tabor aspired to higher political office. He was elected Lieutenant Governor of Colorado in November of 1878, and served two terms as Lieutenant Governor. Although not elected Lieutenant Governor in 1880, Tabor was the first to serve as Lieutenant Governor de facto and President of the Senate ex-officio because Lieutenant Governor-elect George Robinson died before taking office. In January of 1883, Tabor was chosen to complete the term of Senator Henry Teller in the United States Senate.

Although Tabor moved to Denver in 1879, he maintained an apartment and business office in Leadville. He contributed to the business and cultural growth of both Leadville and Denver. In Leadville, he built the Bank of Leadville and the Tabor Opera House, and in Denver, the Tabor Block and the Tabor Grand Opera House. At the same time he remained active in politics and civic affairs. He helped organize the Denver Chamber of Commerce in 1884 and later served as its vice-president and president. He served as chairman of the Republican State Central Committee from 1886 to 1888. In 1898, Tabor became postmaster of Denver and held that position until his death on April 10, 1899.

Exterior view of the Tabor Opera House, 308 Harrison Ave., Leadville, Colorado

Photo courtesy of the Denver Public Library (Digital Collections)

William H. Meyer (1847 - 1923)

Home: San Luis
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1883 - 1884

William Meyer was born in Hanover, Germany, on April 14, 1847, and was educated in Onasbruck, Germany. He immigrated to the United States in the fall of 1861. For the next two years, he worked for various employers in New York and Kentucky. In 1863, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri and stayed until the spring of 1865. By the fall of 1865, he was employed as a mule driver and later as a store clerk in Albuquerque, in the New Mexico Territory. He settled in Colorado's San Luis Valley in July 1866. Shortly after his arrival in Colorado, Meyer became a county clerk and a clerk of the territorial district court under Judge Moses Hallet for eight years. He also raised cattle and sheep after moving to Colorado.

Meyer held various political offices. He served in Colorado's Eighth Territorial Assembly in 1870, and later the Tenth Territorial Assembly in 1874. He was a member of the 1875 state constitutional convention, which convened on December 20. Meyer was then elected to the Senate of the first state legislature, which began on November 1, 1876, and adjourned sine die March 20, 1877. In 1882, he succeeded in his bid for Lieutenant Governor. He ran for Governor of Colorado in 1886, but was defeated by Alva Adams.

Following his defeat, Meyer returned home to resume ranching. While a rancher, Meyer served as a trustee of the Colorado State Normal School in 1891 and as a Colorado Reformatory and State Penitentiary commissioner from 1895 to 1898. He was appointed an agent for the Southern Utes by President William McKinley, and served in this capacity for two years. He was again elected to the Colorado State Senate and served from 1899 to 1902, and from 1907 to 1910.

Meyer returned to southern Colorado, making his home near Fort Garland. He became a member of the board of county commissioners of Costilla County in 1909 and served for four years. In 1915, he became the clerk of the district court in Costilla County and remained in that position until his death in Costilla County on August 22, 1923.

Peter W. Breene (1853 - 1926)

Home: Leadville
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1885 - 1886

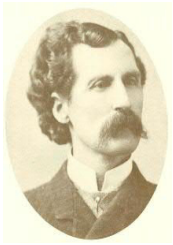
Peter Breene was born near the town of Kilkenny in Leinster, Ireland in August of 1853. He was educated in Ireland by private tutors. In 1870, he immigrated to the United States and settled for a brief time in New York City. Breene then moved to Clay County, Indiana, where he became a coal miner.

After working in Indiana from 1871 to 1876, Breene moved to Colorado. He stayed briefly in the Cripple Creek area and then established his residence in Leadville in 1877. While in Leadville he became active in the mining industry, and a successful entrepreneur by owning part interest in the Colonel Sellers, the Kokomo, and the Big Chief Mines.

During the 1880s, Breene spent much of his time in public service. He established himself in Colorado politics during the 1880 presidential election when he toured the state, and campaigned for the Republican candidate James Garfield. In 1882, Breene was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. He was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1884 and served for one term. He then ran successfully for State Treasurer in 1886, and remained in that position until 1888. He served as a trustee for the Colorado State Normal School from 1889 to 1890.

Following his retirement from public office, Breene continued to manage his mining operations. As mining production in Colorado began to decline during the early part of the twentieth century, Breene emerged as a leading spokesman for the industry's revitalization. Most of Breene's activities for the last two decades of his life centered on the resurgence of the mining industry. He died on December 24, 1926, in Leadville.

Norman H. Meldrum (1841 - 1920)



Home: Fort Collins
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate 1887 - 1888

Born in Caledonia, New York, on October 11, 1841, Norman Meldrum received a common school education and then attended high school at the Union School in Bergen, New York. In 1861, he enlisted in the New York infantry and later was commissioned in the cavalry. During the Civil War, he served in several major campaigns. After the war, Meldrum was transferred to Colorado with his regiment and was mustered out of the service as a captain in 1866. He stayed in Colorado for a short time before he moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he became the city treasurer in 1867. He later returned to Colorado, settled in Larimer County, and was one of the founders and trustees of the Fort Collins Agricultural Colony. In Larimer County, Meldrum was well known as a cattleman and served as president of the Independent Horse and Cattle Company. During the years he lived in Denver, he also kept a home in Fort Collins to raise livestock.

Meldrum's political career continued when he became Larimer County assessor from 1872 to 1874. The following year, he was elected to Colorado's last territorial legislature. Meldrum was chosen to represent Larimer and Weld counties as a senator in Colorado's first General Assembly, which convened in 1876. Before his term expired in 1878, he was elected Secretary of State and served two terms. In 1883, he was appointed as the Surveyor General of the District of Colorado by President Chester Arthur. He returned to state office in 1886, when he was elected Lieutenant Governor. In 1890, he received a presidential appointment from Benjamin Harrison as receiver for the United States Land Office in Sterling. Meldrum was appointed Register of State Lands in 1895, a position he held for two years.

Meldrum left Colorado in 1897 and moved to Buffalo, Wyoming, where he raised stock and helped to develop a large irrigation project. From 1911 until 1919, he was commandant of the Soldiers Home in Buffalo. He died in Denver on February 11, 1920.

William G. Smith (1857 - 1921)

Home: Golden
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1889 - 1890

William Smith was born in Newton, New Jersey, on April 27, 1857. In 1865, his family moved to Detroit, Michigan. Smith was educated in the Birmingham, Michigan public schools. He was preparing to enter the University of Michigan, but his father's poor health necessitated the family's move to Colorado in 1872. Influenced by his father, who had been a prominent educator in the East, Smith developed an interest in teaching and pursued that profession in Jefferson and Douglas counties. He began a career in journalism in 1873, when he became a compositor for the Golden Globe. Smith purchased half interest in that paper in 1874, and by 1879 was the sole owner.

Smith became city clerk of Golden in 1880, and was private secretary to Governor Frederick Pitkin in 1882. From 1884 to 1888, he was superintendent of the Jefferson County Schools, and was on the Board of Control of the State Industrial School from 1885 to 1886. He was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1888, and as Lieutenant Governor also served as the President of the Colorado Senate from 1889-1890. Although he was a leading candidate in the 1894 gubernatorial race, he withdrew in favor of Albert McIntire, who was elected. In 1898, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and served as Speaker in the Twelfth General Assembly (1899-1900).

In 1900, Smith became a tax agent with the Denver Tramway Company and later, property agent and president of the Denver and Intermountain Railroad Company. Smith retired from the Tramway Company in 1918. He then began practicing law in Denver, and later served as a Denver County attorney. Smith died on November 3, 1921, in Golden.

William Story (1843 - 1921)

Home: Ouray
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1891 - 1892

William Story was born in Brookfield, Wisconsin, on April 3, 1843. He was educated in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and Salem, Massachusetts. He subsequently graduated from the University of Michigan's law school in 1864. Story served for a short time with the Thirty-ninth Regiment of the Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers during the Civil War.

Story's law career began in 1865 with the firm of Carter, Pitkin and Davis in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. One of the law firm's partners, Frederick Pitkin, eventually became Governor of Colorado. In 1866, Story moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas at the request of Lafayette Gregg, a justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. The following year, Story was appointed a judge for the circuit court by Governor Isaac Murphy of Arkansas. He held that position until the middle of 1868. In 1869, he was appointed special chief justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. Story was appointed a judge for the United States District Court for the western district of Arkansas in 1871. He served in that capacity until he moved to Denver in 1874.

Story settled in Ouray, Colorado, in 1877, to establish a law practice. In 1890, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, serving from 1891 to 1892. In addition to law, Story's interests included mining and banking. He died in Los Angeles, California on June 20, 1921.

David H. Nichols (1828 - 1900)

Home: Greeley
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1895 - 1898

David Nichols was born in Hardwick, Vermont, on March 16, 1828. He moved with his family to Whiteside County, Illinois, at the age of nine. As a young man, he worked for lumber merchants in Minnesota and Wisconsin. His education included two years at Shurtliff College in Alton, Illinois. He served in the Mexican War and was discharged in June of 1848. Nichols moved to California in 1849, and stayed until 1853. He then returned to Illinois to engage in the mercantile business.

In 1859, Nichols settled near Boulder where he engaged in the black smithing trade. For several months in 1860, he was the keeper ofthe Simpson House in Golden. Returning to Boulder in 1861, he relinquished shares in a saw mill for farm land in Boulder County. Nichols became a captain in the Third Volunteer Colorado Cavalry, which fought several battles including the Battle of Sand Creek in 1864.

Nichols was elected to several territorial and state positions. He was elected to the Fourth Territorial Legislative Assembly, which convened in January of 1865. In August of the same year, he served as a member of the constitutional convention. The constitution that was prepared was approved by the voters in September. While the Territory of Colorado awaited statehood, Nichols served in what was thought to be the first state legislature, which convened on December 12, 1865. Colorado, however, was not admitted to the Union at the time. Nichols later served in the Tenth Territorial Legislative Assembly of 1874, during which he was chosen Speaker of the lower house. In 1878, he was appointed to a six-year term on the State Penitentiary Board, and again served on the Board from 1887 to 1893.

Although a long-time Republican, Nichols later became a Populist, and was the first Populist to be elected Lieutenant Governor in 1892. After his term in office, he returned to his farm in Boulder County, where he died on December 16, 1900.

Jared L. Brush (1835 - 1913)

Home: Greeley
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1895 - 1898

Jared Brush was born in Clermont County, Ohio, on July 6, 1835. He was educated in the common schools of Clermont County. As a young man he assisted his uncle in stock raising and farming and in 1857, Brush moved to Sioux City, Iowa. He later prospected at Russell Gulch in Gilpin County, and along with the discoverer of Russell Gulch, W. Green Russell, prospected in the area known as California Gulch near Leadville.

In July of 1861, Brush moved to Weld County, where he and two of his brothers cut hay and hauled it to the mountain communities. He was also known for driving the first cattle herd from the Missouri River to Colorado in 1862. At this point, he established a large cattle ranch that spanned parts of eastern Colorado, western Kansas, and Nebraska. He was general manager of the Western Union Beef Company for five years.

While living in Weld County, Brush was elected to various political offices. He was county sheriff from 1871 to 1872, and later served two terms in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1879 to 1882. He was also a member of the State Veterinary Sanitary Board from 1891 to 1892. In 1894, he was elected Lieutenant Governor and served in that capacity for two terms.

In 1896, Brush became the owner of a large farm in Morgan County near a town which was later named Brush in his honor. Through his association with the Platte and Beaver Irrigation Company, Brush was instrumental in the establishment of the lower and upper Platte ditches and Beaver Ditch. He was also a trustee of the State Agricultural College from 1907 to 1912. For 16 years, he was president of the Greeley National Bank, and for 7 years, he was director of the Columbia Building and Loan Association of Denver. He died on April 24, 1913, in Greeley.

Francis P. Carney (1846 - 1902)

Home: Ouray
Party Affiliation: Populist
President of the Senate: 1899 - 1900

Francis Carney was born in Fermanagh, Ireland, on September 20, 1846. He immigrated to New York from Ireland with his family in 1859. He began his education in Ireland and completed it at Watkins Academy in Watkins, New York. Carney initially had a career in bookkeeping, but later was apprenticed in masonry. He worked in the masonry trade for ten years while living in New York. He moved to Ouray, Colorado, in May of 1877. While in Ouray, Carney was involved in both the contracting and mining businesses.

In 1879, Carney was elected Ouray County commissioner for a three-year term, and served as chairman of the board. He only served for one year before he resigned from this position to return to business.

Carney later resumed his interest in politics, this time at the state level. He was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives on the Populist ticket in 1892. In 1894, he was elected to the state Senate. He successfully campaigned for Lieutenant Governor in 1898. He was also active in organizing local labor unions in Ouray for the American Federation of Labor. Carney died in Ouray on May 4, 1902.

David C. Coates (1868 - 1933)

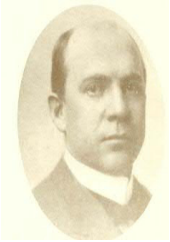
Home: Pueblo
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1901 - 1902

David Coates was born in Brandon, England, on August 9, 1868, and moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1881. He settled in Pueblo, Colorado, one year later. At the age of 14, Coates secured a position with the Pueblo Evening Star. This job began his lifelong career in journalism. Leaving the Evening Star, Coates founded his own newspaper, the Pueblo Press, which he sold in 1887. He also founded the Colorado Chronicle in 1891 and later, in 1895, edited the Labor Advocate. Coates became the half owner and business manager of the Pueblo Courier in 1896. The Courier was known as an official paper for organized labor in Colorado. In 1897, he moved to Denver where he worked for the Rocky Mountain News.

Coates was involved in organized labor for many years. He was secretary (1897) and president (1899-1900) of the Colorado Federation of Labor. He was also associated with the smelter strike of 1899. In 1900, he ran for Lieutenant Governor. Though he had not previously held a state elected office, Coates won the election and served from 1901 to 1902.

Coates left Colorado for the Northwest in 1904, and continued his involvement in labor and the Socialist movement. He was also associated with a Socialist publication, The Coming Nation. By 1917, he was a member of the American Federation of Labor's National Defense Council. Coates died in North Hollywood, California, on January 28, 1933.

Warren A. Haggott (1864 - 1958)



Home: Idaho Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1903 - 1904

Warren Haggott was born on May 18, 1864, in Sidney, Ohio, and was educated in the local public schools. He attended college in Xenia, Ohio, and in 1886, graduated from Valparaiso College located in Indiana. Traveling west, Haggott spent some time in Dallas County, Texas, and in 1887, he moved to Russell Gulch, Colorado, to teach school.

After teaching school, Haggott continued his career as an educator by serving as principal of a Black Hawk school and Golden High School, and as superintendent of schools in Idaho Springs from 1890 to 1899. After helping to establish the first high school in Idaho Springs, his interest turned to law. He was admitted to the bar in 1892, but did not begin practicing law until 1898.

Haggott entered state politics in 1902, when he was elected Lieutenant Governor. Seeking public office again in 1906, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. As a congressman, he was noted for his role in the reform of the postal service. In 1908, Haggott lost his bid for re-election and returned to Colorado.

Haggott moved to Denver in 1911 to practice law, and later served as district judge for the Second Judicial District from 1921 to 1922. Following his judicial service, he organized the Vermillion Oil Company in the Rock Springs area of Wyoming and served as president of the company until his retirement in 1944. Haggott died in Denver on April 29, 1958.

Jesse F. McDonald (1858 - 1942)

Home: Leadville
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1905

Jesse McDonald was born on June 30, 1858, in Ashtabula, Ohio. When McDonald was six years old, his family relocated to a farm near Springfield, Pennsylvania, where he received a common school education. He remained on the family farm until his interests turned to civil engineering.

In 1878, while on a survey expedition, McDonald came to Colorado. Interested in mining operations, he decided to settle in Leadville and became a mining engineer. From 1879 to his death in 1942, McDonald was an important figure in Colorado's mining industry. He operated and was a partner in such notable Leadville mines as the El Dorado, the Penrose, and the Gold Placer. He was a founder and long time leader of the Colorado Mining Association and also served as chairman of the American Mining Congress. In 1905, the Colorado School of Mines recognized McDonald's contributions to the mining industry by awarding him the honorary degree of mining engineer.

In addition to his career in mining, McDonald also had political aspirations. In 1899, he was elected mayor of Leadville and continued in that office until 1905. Although he campaigned successfully for a seat in the Colorado Senate in 1902, he was later unseated during the 1903 session. In 1904, McDonald was elected Lieutenant Governor.

In 1905, McDonald was part of one of Colorado's most unusual political developments. Within 24 hours on March 16 and 17, 1905, Colorado had three governors. In the gubernatorial contest of 1904, the Democratic challenger, Alva Adams, defeated incumbent Governor James Peabody by approximately 10,000 votes. McDonald, a Republican, was elected Lieutenant Governor. It was alleged that widespread voter fraud occurred during the election. In the months following the election, the General Assembly considered a number of options to reconcile the question of who should be Governor, considering the voter fraud that occurred.

Eventually, in March of 1905, members of the General Assembly reached a compromise where it was agreed that neither Adams nor Peabody would serve as Governor. The legislature adopted a report that declared Peabody as the lawfully elected governor, which ended Adams' tenure as Governor, and Peabody assumed his seat. As part of the compromise, however, Peabody agreed to resign within 24 hours of assuming the office, which he did. On March 17, 1905, McDonald, by virtue of gubernatorial succession, was sworn in as Colorado's third Governor in a 24-hour period.

In 1908, he ran for Governor, but was defeated by John Shafroth. After leaving the Governor's office, McDonald remained active in politics. He was twice elected chairman of the state Republican Central Committee serving from 1911 to 1914, and again from 1931 to 1934. From 1927 to 1930, McDonald served on the board of directors of the Colorado State Metal Mining Board. He also continued his mining operations and was president of the Carbonate American National Bank in Leadville. McDonald died in Denver on February 25, 1942.

482. Penrose Mine, Lake County

Photo courtesy: History Colorado

Arthur Cornforth (1861 - 1938)

Home: Colorado Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1905

Arthur Cornforth was born in Smethport, Pennsylvania, on February 21, 1861. After attending high school in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he continued his education at the State University of Kansas where he received a law degree in 1882. He practiced law in Clyde, Kansas, for five years. During that time Cornforth was city attorney and deputy prosecuting attorney. He was also appointed postmaster of Clyde by President Chester Arthur in 1883. Cornforth resigned from the office in 1885.

Cornforth moved to Denver in October of 1887, and four months later, he relocated to Durango where he became an express agent for the Denver and Rio Grande Railway. In August of 1889, he moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, and lived there until 1892. Returning to Durango, he practiced law and was La Plata County attorney in 1895. He settled in Colorado Springs in January of 1896, and continued practicing law.

In 1902, Cornforth was elected to the Colorado Senate. During his first senatorial term, he was chosen President Pro Tem at the beginning of the 1905 session. Cornforth became Lieutenant Governor in March 1905, after Lieutenant Governor Jesse McDonald became Governor. Later, the Colorado Supreme Court found that the office of the Lieutenant Governor should be held by the current President Pro Tem, Senator Fred Parks, and Cornforth stepped down. Cornforth was again elected to the Senate in 1910.

He was appointed as a judge for Colorado's Fourth Judicial District in 1919. He served continuously in this office for 18 years and died on August 6, 1938, in Colorado Springs, while serving as the presiding judge for the Fourth Judicial District.

Fred W. Parks (1872 - 1941)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1905 - 1906

Fred Parks was born on September 1, 1872, in Genesco, New York, where he attended the New York State Normal School. When he was 16 years old, he moved to Cañon City, Colorado. While in Cañon City, he was employed as a deputy county clerk to James Peabody, later Governor of Colorado. A few months later, Parks moved to Denver and worked for an insurance company for two years. In 1891, he started an insurance agency and sold it two years later. When Parks moved to Denver, he continued his education at the University of Denver, and later at the State University at Boulder, where he received a law degree in 1895. In 1896, Parks and Benjamin Lindsey established the law firm of Lindsey and Parks, but their partnership ended in January 1901, when Lindsey was appointed an Arapahoe County judge.

At the age of 26, Parks was appointed secretary of the Silver Republican Central Committee of Arapahoe County in 1897. A year later, he was elected to the Colorado Senate. While serving his first senatorial term, Parks was appointed Arapahoe County public administrator by Governor James Orman in 1901. Parks was re elected to the Senate in 1904, and was chosen President Pro Tem on the last day of the 1905 session. Parks became the third Lieutenant Governor to serve in 1905 after Jesse McDonald became Governor and Arthur Cornforth yielded the office to Parks.

Parks served as an Arapahoe County attorney for one term and was elected a county commissioner in 1907. He continued his law practice and represented some of Colorado's larger utility corporations. He died in 1941 in Denver.

Erastus R. Harper, Jr. (1857 - 1927)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1907 - 1908

Erastus Harper, Jr., was born on July 14, 1857 in Oakfield, Michigan. A few years later, the Harpers returned to the family farm near Cleveland, Ohio. Raised on the farm, Harper was educated in a common country school. As a young man he explored many trades, first as a civil engineer, then as an office worker for the Buckeye Mower and Reaper Works, and later as manager of the Akron Pressed Brick Company.

Harper was first elected to public office in Akron, Ohio, where he served as a member of the city council and as mayor from 1893 to 1897. While in Ohio, Harper became a close friend of President William McKinley, and in 1898, was appointed by the President to the Uncompahgre Ute Indian Allotting Commission in Utah. Later, President McKinley appointed him as a special commissioner for opening the Uintah Ute reservation.

In 1900, Harper moved to Colorado. He served as chief clerk of the Colorado House of Representatives in 1905. The following year, Harper was elected Lieutenant Governor. During the frequent absences of Governor Henry Buchtel, Harper served as acting Governor. Following his single term in office, Harper, who was recognized as an expert on mining and metals, was sent to South Africa during World War I to test gold quartz. He returned to Colorado and public office serving as State Insurance Commissioner in 1915, private secretary to Governor Oliver Shoup in 1919, president of the Colorado Prison Association from 1909 to 1920, State Budget and Efficiency Commissioner from 1919 to 1921, and secretary of the State Historical and Natural History Society from 1925 to 1927. Harper died in Denver on May 12, 1927.

Stephen R. Fitzgarrald (1854 - 1926)

Home: Telluride
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1909 - 1914

On Christmas Day, 1854, Stephen Fitzgarrald was born in Center Point, Iowa. Fitzgarrald grew up on the family farm and was educated in Iowa public schools. He later attended Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, and studied law in the offices of Colonel I. M. Preston, a well-known criminal lawyer in Iowa. Fitzgarrald was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1879.

In 1878, Fitzgarrald spent a short time in Leadville, Colorado, and decided to return to Colorado in 1881. He practiced law in Ophir for two years before he moved to Telluride. While in Telluride, he developed mining interests in Leadville and Rico and served as city attorney, San Miguel County attorney, and deputy district attorney. By 1899, Fitzgarrald held interests in the Bank of Telluride, the First National Bank of Telluride, and the Telluride Electric Light and Power Company.

In 1892, Fitzgarrald, on the Populist ticket, was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives from Telluride. As a representative, Fitzgarrald was noted for three pieces of legislation. One of these gave the right of redemption in deed of trust sales, prorated money among the various creditors in attachment suits, and the third provided for the reduction of excessive tax penalties. He was subsequently elected Lieutenant Governor on the Democratic ticket in 1908 and again in 1910. In 1912, Benjamin Montgomery, a former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, was elected Lieutenant Governor, but died before he was officially sworn into office. As a result, Fitzgarrald served as Lieutenant Governor de facto from 1913 to 1914, and was the first person to serve three terms as Lieutenant Governor.

Fitzgarrald and his family moved to the Silverton and Ouray mining districts in 1915. Although he owned extensive mining property in these areas, he did not stay and returned to Denver, where he died on June 2, 1926.

Moses E. Lewis (1854 - 1951)

Home: Florence
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1915 - 1916

Moses Lewis was born on July 26, 1854, in Coal Valley, Illinois. He first settled in Colorado around 1886 at Rockvale. While in Rockvale, Lewis engaged in coal mining and farming. He also served as the Rockvale town treasurer for two years. He later moved to Florence and entered the grocery business. Along with his partner, he opened the Lewis and Yost grocery store. In Florence, Lewis continued his interest in local politics. He was elected mayor in 1896, and served until 1898. He was a member of the Florence City Council from 1899 to 1901, and from 1907 to 1915 was the postmaster of Florence. Lewis also served as a Fremont County Republican chairman.

In 1904, Lewis was elected to the Colorado Senate to represent Fremont County. He was chosen President Pro Tem in 1907. Six years later, Lewis returned to state office when he was elected Lieutenant Governor. Shortly before taking office, he moved to Cañon City. He served one term as Lieutenant Governor from 1915 to 1916.

In 1923, Lewis moved to Pasadena, California, where he remained until his death on March 13, 1951.

James A. Pulliam (1863 - 1934)

Home: Durango
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1917 - 1918

James Pulliam was born in Scotland County, Missouri, on October 12, 1863. He attended the Scotland County public schools, and the State Normal School in Kirksville, Missouri. While studying law under the tutelage of a Missouri judge, he taught school for two years in Clay County, Missouri.

Pulliam was admitted to the Missouri bar in 1887 and moved to Sterling, Colorado, in that same year. He practiced law in Sterling until 1892, and then moved to Rico. In addition to practicing law and mining in Rico, he served as the town attorney and as Dolores County attorney. He was district attorney for the Colorado Sixth Judicial District from 1903 to 1908. He moved to Durango to accept this position, and later served as the La Plata County attorney in 1911, 1912, 1915 and 1916.

In 1916, Pulliam was elected Lieutenant Governor. After his term in office he continued to practice law. He was an attorney for the Rio Grande and Southern Railroad Company. He died in Durango on September 17, 1934.

Rio Grande & Southern Railroad (Narrow Gauge Caboose 0401)

Photo courtesy: Denver Public Library Special Collections

George Stephan (1862 - 1944)

Home: Delta
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1919 - 1920

George Stephan was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on March 30, 1862. He attended Cleveland public schools and graduated from Cleveland High School in 1878. Stephan moved west to Colorado in 1881 and settled in Denver. He remained in Denver until 1888 when he moved to Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1890, he returned to Colorado and established his residence in Delta. In that same year, he was admitted to the Colorado bar.

Throughout his life, Stephan was active both in business and public affairs. In the private sector, he held the presidencies of the Delta Town and Improvement Company, the Gunnison Tunnel Improvement Company, the Businessmen's Association, and the Western Slope Congress. In the public sector, Stephan held many local and state offices. He served in Delta as a city, county, and then deputy district attorney. He was also a member of the Delta city council. After serving one term in the Colorado Senate from 1911 to 1914, Stephan was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1918. Following his term as Lieutenant Governor, Stephan was appointed Register for the State Board of Land Commissioners in 1921 and a United States district attorney in 1924. He subsequently opened a private law practice in Denver.

After retiring in California, Stephan remained politically active and served two terms as a member of the San Diego Planning Commission. He died in La Jolla, California, on September 9, 1944.

Earl Cooley (1880 - 1940)

Home: Trinidad
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1921 - 1922

On March 27, 1880, Earl Cooley was born in Richmond, Illinois. In 1881, his family moved first to Raton, New Mexico, and then to Trinidad, Colorado. After he attended local schools and the Tillotson Academy in Trinidad, Cooley graduated from the Colorado College with a bachelor of philosophy degree in 1900. While attending Colorado College, he distinguished himself both as a scholar and as an athlete. He later received a degree from the University of Michigan's law school.

After receiving his law degree, Cooley returned to Trinidad and established a legal practice, specializing in mining law. During World War I, he helped to organize the Second Colorado Infantry. By the time he was discharged, Cooley had earned the rank of major. He won three citations for bravery during the course of the war. After the war, he won a scholarship to Clare College of Cambridge University in England, where he specialized in law and political economy.

When he returned to Colorado, Cooley resumed his legal practice in Trinidad. In 1920, he was elected Lieutenant Governor and served in that office for one term. Exactly one day before he was to have officially relinquished the Office of Lieutenant Governor in January of 1923, Cooley accepted an appointment as Register for the State Board of Land Commissioners from outgoing Governor Oliver Shoup. In 1934, he was appointed appraiser for the land board. He was serving in that position when he died on May 6, 1940, in Adams County.

Robert F. Rockwell (1886 - 1950)

Home: Paonia
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1923 - 1924

Robert Rockwell was born in Cortland, New York, on February 11, 1886. After attending New York public schools and the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, Rockwell studied at Princeton University. At both the Hill School and Princeton, he was a champion tennis player.

During a visit to his aunt in Paonia, Colorado, in 1907, Rockwell severely injured his leg while riding and decided not to return to school. Instead, he settled in Paonia and became a successful rancher and fruit grower. As a rancher, Rockwell developed an interest in advanced cattle breeding methods and land improvements, which led to a lifelong commitment to improving agricultural education on the local and state levels. Rockwell became a leader in the local grange movement, was one of the State Agricultural College's leading advocates, and was a member of the State Board of Agriculture from 1933 to 1941.

Rockwell also became involved in Colorado politics. In 1916 and 1918, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, and in 1920 he was elected to the Senate. While serving as a senator, he was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1922. Rockwell ran as an unsuccessful candidate in the 1930 gubernatorial election. In 1938, he was elected to complete the term of E. Hotchkiss in the Colorado Senate and was re-elected in 1940. Following the death of Edward Taylor, a special election was held in early December of 1941 to fill the vacancy created in the United States House of Representatives. Rockwell won the special election. He was re-elected to that office in 1942, 1944, and 1946. Rockwell's career in agriculture and politics ended with his death on September 28, 1950, in Paonia.

Sterling B. Lacy (1882 - 1955)

Home: Grand Junction
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1925 - 1926

Sterling Lacy was born on May 30, 1882, in Fredericksburg, Virginia. After receiving a preparatory education in Fredericksburg private schools, he attended Fredericksburg College. In 1901, Lacy moved west and settled in New Mexico. One year later, he moved to Grand Junction, Colorado, and worked in the banking business. For the next 12 years, he served in various executive capacities for the Union Trust Banking Company and the Grand Valley National Bank, both of which were located in Grand Junction. In 1917, Lacy started a career in the insurance business that continued until his retirement. He initially worked as a district manager in Grand Junction for the Kansas City Life Insurance Company. In 1928, he moved to Denver to become the secretary of the Colorado Life Insurance Company. He later served as vice-president (1934) and president (1935) of that company.

Throughout his business career, Lacy was also politically active. He served two terms in the Colorado House of Representatives (1919-1920 and 1923-1924). During the 1923 1924 biennium, he was the Minority Floor Leader. In 1924, Lacy was elected Lieutenant Governor for one term. Following that term, he served as a commissioner on the board of the State Home and Training School from 1925 to 1927 and as Colorado State Budget and Efficiency Commissioner from 1927 to 1930.

Upon his retirement in 1947, Lacy returned to his native state of Virginia to pursue his interests in golf, music, and art. He died on March 7, 1955, in Daytona Beach, Florida.

George M. Corlett (1884 - 1955)

Home: Monte Vista
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1927 - 1930

George Corlett was born on November 7, 1884, near Burchard in Richardson County, Nebraska. His family moved to Colorado in 1889 and established their residence in Monte Vista. Corlett graduated from the University of Colorado, and received his law degree from the University of Nebraska's law school.

After graduation from law school in 1905, Corlett returned to Monte Vista and joined his father in legal practice. Like his father, Corlett specialized in irrigation and water law. He became one of Colorado's early leading authorities on those subjects. He later served as a three-term president of the San Luis Bar Association and on the executive committee of the Colorado Bar Association.

Corlett was also active in the military for many years. During World War I, he was a battalion commander and promoted from the rank of second lieutenant to major. After the war he joined the Colorado National Guard and served as a lieutenant colonel for several years.

At the same time he became a practicing attorney, Corlett also entered politics. He was Rio Grande County's superintendent of schools from 1906 to 1907 and served as Rio Grande County attorney from 1908 to 1912. After returning from World War I, he was chosen mayor of Monte Vista for the 1919-1920 term of office. He was also chairman of the Rio Grande County Central Republican Committee for three terms and a member of the Rio Grande Basin Committee of the National Resources Planning Board. In 1926, Corlett was elected to the first of two consecutive terms as Lieutenant Governor. Later, during World War II, he was a member of the Colorado Defense Counsel and chairman of Colorado's Selective Service Appeals Board.

Throughout his political career, Corlett maintained the law firm established by his father in Monte Vista. He was later joined in practice by his son. At the age of 71, Corlett died in Phoenix, Arizona, on February 16, 1955.

Edwin C. Johnson (1884 - 1970)

Home: Craig
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1931 - 1932

Born in Scandia, Kansas, on New Year's Day, 1884, Edwin "Big Ed" Johnson grew up on a cattle ranch in western Nebraska. Forced to drop out of school at a young age, he went to work as a baggage handler and later as a train dispatcher and telegraph operator. In 1907, he decided to move to Colorado because of poor health. After recovering in a Colorado Springs sanitarium, Johnson homesteaded in Moffat County. There, he worked as a farmer, freight hauler, and teacher.

Johnson holds a unique place in Colorado political history. He is the only person who has served three terms as Governor of Colorado and three terms as a United States Senator. Beginning in 1922, he was elected to the first of four consecutive terms in the Colorado House of Representatives. In 1930, Johnson was elected Lieutenant Governor. While serving in that office, he also became the private secretary of Governor William Adams. Johnson was first elected Governor in 1932, based primarily on his commitment to the development of Colorado highways. He was re-elected in 1934.

In 1936, he won election to the first of three terms as a United States Senator. As a Senator, Johnson was particularly noted for his work on the Military Affairs Committee and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. As vice-chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, he was responsible for several pieces of legislation including the bills that created the G.I. Bill of Rights and that established Lowry Air Force Base.

In 1954, Johnson decided not to run for re-election to the Senate and instead ran successfully for a third term as Governor of Colorado. Although he retired from elective politics in 1957, Johnson continued to remain active in Colorado politics. He served on many state and local committees, including as a member of the Upper Colorado River Commission and as the chairman of Governor Stephen McNichols' Reapportionment Commission.

Johnson was responsible for professional baseball's revival in Denver in 1946, and played a key role in the construction of Bears Stadium (later Mile High Stadium). He also served as president of the Western Baseball League from 1946 to 1956. In 1968, he was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame. He died in Denver's St. Joseph Hospital on May 30, 1970.

Ray H. Talbot (1896 - 1955)

Home: Pueblo
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1933 - 1936

Ray Talbot was born in Chicago, Illinois, on August 19, 1896, and in 1897, he and his family moved to Pueblo, Colorado. In 1912, he began working for the Colorado Fuel land Iron Corporation, and continued with that company for eight years. In 1919, he was employed at the Southern Colorado Power Company as an electrical engineer and later managed both the public and industrial relations and sales departments for the company.

Talbot was elected as a representative to the Colorado General Assembly and served from 1927 to 1928. He was elected to the state Senate in 1928. Beginning in 1933, he served two terms as Lieutenant Governor under Governor Edwin Johnson. When Johnson was elected to the United States Senate in 1936, Talbot completed Johnson's unexpired second gubernatorial term from January 2 to January 12, 1937.

Talbot was also active in local politics and statewide organizations. He served as a Pueblo city commissioner from 1932 to 1941. For several years he was the vice-president of the Colorado Federation of Labor. He was a member of the Colorado State Fair Association from 1933 to 1941, and was president from 1934 to 1941. Talbot also maintained an interest in water conservation, state highways, and forest improvement. He was postmaster of Pueblo from 1949 until his death on January 30, 1955.

Frank J. Hayes (1882 - 1948)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1937 - 1938

The son of a coal miner, Frank Hayes was born in What Cheer, Iowa, on May 4, 1882. He later moved with his family to the coalfields of Illinois. In Illinois, he attended local public schools in both Collinsville and Mount Olive. At the age of 13, he went to work as a coal miner in Pennsylvania.

As a coal miner, Hayes joined the United Mine Workers of America and began a labor career that eventually led him to the union's presidency. After holding several local offices, Hayes was appointed to the union's district 12 executive board in Illinois in 1908. In 1910, he was elected as an international vice-president of the United Mine Workers, the youngest man ever to hold that office. As a vice president, Hayes was head of the region that included Colorado. He was the union's representative who directed the Colorado coal strike of 1913-1914, which was centered in Ludlow. In 1917, he was elected president of the United Mine Workers Union. At the request of President Woodrow Wilson in 1919, Hayes conducted a tour of the European mining conditions, as a member of the Versailles Treaty Commission. During the tour, he developed health problems and was forced to return to the United States, and he then resigned as president of the union in 1920.

To regain his health, Hayes returned to Colorado and settled in Idaho Springs. After his health improved, he became a local union official and for a short time operated the Hayes Mining Company in Idaho Springs. In addition to his union activities, he occasionally ran for public office. In 1908, he had campaigned as a Socialist candidate for Governor of Illinois, and in 1926, he ran in the Colorado Democratic primary for the United State Senate. He was elected Lieutenant Governor of Colorado in 1936.

After leaving office, Hayes' health once again failed. His condition forced him to retire from all union and political activities. He died in Denver on June 10, 1948.

John C. Vivian (1889 - 1964)

Home: Golden
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1939 - 1942

On June 30, 1889, John Vivian was born in Golden, Colorado. Vivian and his father, John F., were politically active in Colorado for many years. After the younger Vivian graduated from the Golden public schools, he enrolled at the University of Colorado. While attending college, Vivian worked as a correspondent for the Denver Republican. From 1911 to 1912, he was state editor of the Denver Times. He received a law degree from the University of Denver's law school in 1913, and was admitted to the Colorado bar that same year.

He began his legal career as special counselor to the Denver city attorney and served from 1913 to 1914. During World War I, Vivian was in the United States Marine Corps. After returning from the war he resumed his legal career. Vivian was a city attorney for Golden (1922 1925), a Jefferson County attorney (1922-1932), and a special assistant to Colorado's Attorney General (1925 1928).

Vivian ran for Lieutenant Governor unsuccessfully in 1936, but was elected to that office in 1938 and re-elected in 1940. He won the gubernatorial election in 1942 and was re-elected Governor in 1944. In 1948, he sought the Republican nomination for the United States Senate, but was defeated in the primary by Will Nicholson. After retiring from public office, Vivian became associated with the law firm of Vivian, Sherman, and Kinney in Denver. He continued to be active in state affairs by serving as chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report, and chairman of the Colorado Commission on Uniform State Laws.

Vivian pursued his interest in writing throughout his lifetime and became known as the "poet-governor of Colorado." Writing under the pen name of "Vivian Varian," his poems and epigrams were published regularly in The Saturday Evening Post, The Chicago Tribune, and The New York Times. He died in Denver on February 10, 1964.

William E. Higby (1884 - 1967)

Home: Monument
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1943 - 1946

On January 26, 1884, William Higby was born in Garden Grove, Iowa. His family moved to Colorado in 1888 and homesteaded in the area near Eastonville, which is northeast of Colorado Springs. At Eastonville, Higby's father established a store in the Russell Gates Mercantile Company chain in 1889. In 1900, his father founded the Higby Mercantile Company in Monument.

After graduating from East Denver High School in 1906, Higby returned to Monument where he worked in his father's mercantile company. During Higby's business career, he was manager and later owner of the Higby Mercantile Company. He was also treasurer and director of the Greenland Land and Cattle Company and president and manager of the Higby Livestock Company.

Higby's long public career began in 1910, when he was elected treasurer of Monument. He was elected mayor of Monument in 1912, and served in that capacity for 20 years. In 1920, he was elected to the school board of District 38, a position he held for 15 years. Higby was first elected to state office in 1932 as a representative for El Paso County. During his eight-year tenure as a representative, he served as Minority Floor Leader from 1937 to 1938 and presided as Speaker of the House from 1939 to 1940. He was elected to the Colorado Senate in 1940. He did not complete his senatorial term because he was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1942, and also served as the President of the Senate. Although he was a candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 1944, he was re-elected Lieutenant Governor instead.

After retiring from state political office, Higby continued to be active in local public offices. In 1948, he was named to the Colorado Springs-El Paso County Board of Health, a position he held for ten years. He died in Monument on February 28, 1967.

Homer L. Pearson (1900 - 1985)

Home: Wheat Ridge
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1947 - 1948

Homer Pearson, the son of Swedish immigrants, was born in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, on December 31, 1900. After graduating from Wheat Ridge High School, he attended the State College of Agriculture at Fort Collins. Pearson worked as a nurseryman with Wilmore Nurseries in 1924, and in 1929, he operated his own greenhouse, specializing in growing carnations.

Pearson was a leader in the development of Colorado's carnation industry and an active member and officer in many floral societies. Pearson was president of the American Carnation Society and the first florist from Colorado to become director of the Society of American Florists. He also served as a judge for many national flower shows.

In 1936, Pearson was elected to the first of five consecutive terms in the Colorado House of Representatives. He was the first legislator to serve three terms as Speaker of the House. He presided as Speaker from 1941 to 1946. While serving in the statehouse, Pearson sponsored legislation concerning the first rural fire protection districts, the first planning and zoning act, and the Water and Sanitation Act of 1939.

Following his ten years of service in the legislature, Pearson was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1946, and also served as President of the Senate. After completing his term of office as Lieutenant Governor, he retired from state political office. He died in Wheat Ridge on June 9, 1985.

Walter W. Johnson (1904 - 1987)

Home: Pueblo
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1949 - 1950

On April 16, 1904, Walter Johnson was born in Pueblo, Colorado. He attended Pueblo public schools from 1908 to 1919. In 1919, he began working for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I) in Pueblo. During his employment with CF&I, he continued his education at a Pueblo vocational school from 1922 to 1924. He was transferred by the company to Amarillo, Texas, in 1924, and in 1926 to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where he was a sales representative. Returning to Pueblo in 1930, he continued to work for CF & I and also began a career in the insurance business. From 1932 to 1937, he was supervisor for the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company in Pueblo. Johnson started his own real estate and general insurance business in 1937.

The first of many public offices Johnson held was a position on the Pueblo school board beginning in 1937. He also served as director of the school board from 1939 to 1943. In 1940, Johnson was elected to the Colorado Senate. He represented Pueblo County in the Senate for eight years before he was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1948. In April of 1950, when Governor W. Lee Knous resigned to become a federal district judge for Colorado, Johnson succeeded to Governor. Johnson ran unsuccessfully for Governor in 1950, but returned to the state Senate in April of 1951 to complete the term of the late Senator Curtis Ritchie. He was again elected to the Senate in 1954.

In 1962, Johnson was appointed to the board of the Colorado State Industrial Commission and was reappointed to the commission in 1967. On December 31, 1969, Johnson resigned before completing his second term on the commission. He then moved to Tempe, Arizona, and died there on March 23, 1987.

Charles P. Murphy (1882 - 1953)

Home: Spicer
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1950

Charles Murphy was born in Leadville, Colorado, on January 13, 1882. That same year, his family moved to North Park and homesteaded near Spicer where Murphy attended grade school. In 1898, the Murphys sold their ranch and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. Murphy worked for the Chicago and Great Western Railroad while living in St. Paul. His family soon returned to North Park and purchased a ranch near their original homestead. Murphy and his brother continued operating the ranch after their father's death in 1901. For a short time, Murphy attended Barnes Business College in Denver and the University of Wyoming. After his brother's death in 1918, Murphy ran the ranch and acquired more property.

Murphy was elected to the state legislature in 1928. He served two terms in the Colorado House of Representatives. In 1936, he was elected to the first of five consecutive terms as a state senator. At the close of the 1949 session, Murphy was chosen President Pro Tem to serve during the interim. He became acting Lieutenant Governor in April 1950, when Lieutenant Governor Walter Johnson became Governor.

Murphy, a cattleman, was always an advocate for the livestock industry. Murphy served on the board of the Grazing Service Colorado District No. 2 for many years. He was also president of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and the Colorado Stock Growers and Feeders Association in 1942 and 1943. Murphy died on December 25, 1953, in Spicer, while serving his fifth senatorial term.

Gordon L. Allott (1907 - 1989)

Home: Lamar
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1951 - 1954

Gordon Allott, the thirty-third Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, was born in Pueblo on January 2, 1907. He was educated in the Pueblo school system and later graduated from the University of Colorado, where he received both his undergraduate and law degrees. While a student, Allott was a conference champion hurdler. He later received several honorary degrees from other Colorado universities.

Allott was involved in politics from 1934, when he became county attorney in Prowers, until his retirement from the United States Senate in 1972. In 1936, he helped to establish the Young Republican Club of Colorado, and served as the first chairman. From 1937 to 1941, he was the city attorney of Lamar. In 1940, Allott was again elected as Prowers County attorney, and one year later was elected national chairman of the Young Republicans. After a four-year tour of duty (1942-1946) in the Army Air Forces, he was appointed district attorney for Colorado's Fifteenth Judicial District and later was elected to that post. He was elected as Colorado's Lieutenant Governor in 1950, and re-elected in 1952.

In 1954, Allott was elected to the first of three terms as a United States Senator. As a Senator, he served on several congressional committees, was an official United States congressional representative to the United Nations, and chairman of the national Republican Party Policy Committee.

Along with his political activity, Allott had varied legal interests. He was an attorney for the Amity Mutual Irrigation Company, the director and attorney for the First Federal Savings and Loan Association, and a member of the Colorado State Board of Bar Examiners. After leaving political office in 1972, Allott practiced law in Denver. He died January 17, 1989, in Englewood.

Stephen L.R. McNichols (1914 - 1997)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1955 - 1956

Stephen McNichols was born March 7, 1914, in Denver, and graduated from Regis College in 1936. He earned a law degree from Catholic University in 1939, and was admitted to the Washington, D.C., bar that same year. In 1940 McNichols worked as a field agent in the Baltimore and Boston offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 1941 he was elected Denver's deputy district attorney, and in February of 1942 he enlisted in the United States Navy. During World War II, he won a Bronze Star and was later discharged as a lieutenant commander. Following the war, McNichols was a special assistant attorney for the United States Department of Justice for two years. He then became a partner in the Denver law firm of McNichols, Dunn, and Nevans.

In 1948, McNichols began a political career in Colorado that spanned the next 20 years. He was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 1948 and re-elected in 1952. During his first term, McNichols was appointed as chairman of the Long-range Highway Planning Committee by Governor W. Lee Knous. While still a member of the Senate, he successfully ran for Lieutenant Governor in 1954. Following his term as Lieutenant Governor, McNichols was elected Governor of Colorado in 1956 and re elected in 1958 as Colorado's first Governor to serve a four year term. As Governor, he was elected chairman of the National Governors' Conference in 1960.

After being defeated in his bid for a third term as Governor in 1962, McNichols continued to remain active in both public and private life. Besides serving as a Colorado committeeman on the Democratic National Committee, he also ran for the United States Senate in 1968.

In private life, he was a partner in the law firms of McNichols, Nevans, and Wallace and later with McNichols, Nigro, and Baldridge. He also served as president and chairman of the board of the Seventeenth Street National Bank. In 1977, he was appointed the secretarial representative for the United States Commerce Department's Region VIII. He died in Denver on November 25, 1997.

Frank L. Hays (1922 - 2003)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1957 - 1958

Frank Hays, a native of Denver, was born on January 6, 1922. Educated in Denver public schools, he graduated from East Denver High School in 1939 and enrolled at the University of Colorado that same year. While attending the university, he enlisted in the Army Air Force. During World War II, he was a flight instructor. After the war, Hays returned to Denver and continued his education. He attended the University of Denver in 1947, and the University of Denver's law school from 1947 to 1950. In 1950, he obtained his law degree, was admitted to the bar, and began practicing law. He received the Outstanding Man of the Year award from the Colorado Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1952.

Hays served as a state representative from 1951 to 1956. During his third term in the House, he was chosen Majority Floor Leader. In 1956, Hays was elected Lieutenant Governor. He did not succeed in his bid for re-election in 1958.

As an attorney, Hays was associated with the law firms of Strickland, Tull, and Hays, and later with Robertson, Tull, Danks, and Hays. He later became a partner in the law firm of Hays, Patterson, and Ambrose, and became a registered lobbyist. He died in Denver on January 25, 2003.

Robert L. Knous (1917 - 2000)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1959 - 1966

A second generation Coloradan from Ouray, Robert Lee Knous, was born on November 1, 1917. He was the son of William Lee Knous, former Colorado governor. When Knous was six years old, his family moved to Montrose. Educated in the Montrose public schools, Knous worked in a mine for a year before entering the University of Colorado. His family moved to Denver in 1937, when his father became an associate justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. While Knous was enrolled at the university, he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1941. He completed his B.A. degree while serving in the Naval Air Corps. During his four and one-half years as a naval pilot, he earned the rank of lieutenant commander. After the war, he returned to Denver and received his law degree from the University of Denver's law school. For a brief period, Knous served as private secretary to his father who was then Governor of Colorado. The younger Knous was a Denver deputy district attorney from 1947 to 1950.

Knous first ran for state office in 1952, and was elected to the Colorado Senate. In 1955, during his first senatorial term, Knous was appointed chairman of the Governor's Commission on the Aging. As a result of the commission's activities, the voters approved the 1956 pension reform amendment to the Colorado Constitution. He was also appointed chairman of the Governor's Commission for the White House Conference on Aging in 1960.

Knous lost his bid for Lieutenant Governor in 1956, but won in 1958, and was re-elected in 1962. He was the first Lieutenant Governor to serve a four-year term. While serving as Lieutenant Governor, he ran unsuccessfully for the United States Senate in 1960, and for governor in 1966. In 1968, Knous moved to Washington, D.C., to become an attorney for the Indian Claims Commission. He returned to Denver in 1973 to practice law, where he died on May 15, 2000.

Mark A. Hogan (1931 - 2017)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 1967 - 1970

Mark Hogan was born in Chicago, Illinois, on January 27, 1931, and lived there until he graduated from the St. Ignatius High School in 1948. An honor student in high school, he later attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he received a degree in economics in 1952. While in college, he was active in student government and was listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

After serving two years as a lieutenant in the United States Navy, Hogan moved to Denver in 1954. He entered the real estate business and joined the firm of Knoelbel and Company, where he served as vice-president and sales manager. He later became president of the Denver Board of Realtors and helped found Hogan-Stevenson Realty.

Hogan's political career began in 1956 when he was a member of the Governor's Committee on Reapportionment. In 1962, he was elected to the first of two consecutive terms in the Colorado House of Representatives. While in the House, he served as the Assistant Majority Leader. He was then elected Lieutenant Governor in 1966. Hogan ran unsuccessfully against John Love for Governor in 1970. He later served as chair of the Colorado Democratic Party from 1979 through 1980.

His community and academic activities have covered a broad spectrum. He has served as chairman of the Denver Metropolitan United Fund, a trustee for Loretto Heights College, a member of the Board of Governors for Georgetown University, and president of the Denver Junior Chamber of Commerce. His civic contributions were recognized in 1961, when he was chosen Colorado Man of the Year.

After leaving the Office of Lieutenant Governor, Hogan remained active in the real estate business. In March 1979, he was elected chairman of the Colorado Democratic Party. He died in Denver in 2017.

John D. Vanderhoof (1922 - 2013)

Home: Glenwood Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1971 - 1973

On May 27, 1922, John Vanderhoof was born in Rocky Ford, Colorado. He was raised on a ranch in Larimer County. After graduating from Fort Collins High School, he went to Glendale, California, where he received an A.A. degree from Glendale College in 1942.

During World War II, Vanderhoof graduated from the Naval Aviation Cadet program, and subsequently served as a carrier fighter pilot in the South Pacific. Vanderhoof's actions during the war earned him two Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Air Medals. After being severely wounded in action, Vanderhoof was assigned to the United States Naval Convalescent Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He remained in Glenwood Springs where he became a prominent businessman. He founded Van's Sporting Goods (1946), and established the Glenwood Industrial Bank (1955) and the Bank of Glenwood (1963).

In 1950, Vanderhoof was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and retained that office for 20 years. During that period, Vanderhoof held important leadership roles that included eight years as Minority Floor Leader (1957-1962 and 1965-1966), and six years as Speaker of the House of Representatives (1963 1964 and 1967-1970). In the 1970 general election, Vanderhoof became the first Lieutenant Governor elected under the constitutional provision which, for the first time, required joint election of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. As Lieutenant Governor, Vanderhoof also served as the President of the Senate from 1971 to 1973.

When Governor John Love resigned to assume the duties as director of the White House Office of Energy Policy on July 16, 1973, Vanderhoof became the thirty-seventh Governor of Colorado. As an incumbent, Vanderhoof ran unsuccessfully for Governor in the 1974 general election. Vanderhoof also served as president of Club 20, a Western Slope lobbying and promotional organization. He passed away in Glenwood Springs on September 19, 2013.

Ted L. Strickland (1932 - 2012)

Home: Westminster
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1973 - 1974 and 1983 - 1992

Originally from Texas, Ted Strickland was born in Austin on September 17, 1932. After graduating from Oklahoma City public schools, Strickland attended Oklahoma A & M College for a year before serving in the United States Army, Third Armored Division, from 1952 through 1954.

Strickland came to the Denver area in 1954. He attended the University of Denver and decided to stay in Westminster. He entered the petroleum industry and eventually became the general manager of library services for the Petroleum Information Corporation. In addition to his professional interests, Strickland served as director of the Denver Rescue Mission, director of the Colorado Humane Society, and president of the Adams County Young Republicans.

Entering the state political arena in 1966, Strickland was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. After one term in the House, Strickland was elected as a State Senator in 1968. From 1971 to 1972, he served as Assistant Majority Leader. He was re-elected to the Senate in 1972, and served as President Pro Tem in 1973. He became acting Lieutenant Governor on July 16, 1973, when Lieutenant Governor John Vanderhoof succeeded Governor John Love. Strickland served as acting Lieutenant Governor for a year and a half. In the ensuing election, he ran for Lieutenant Governor with gubernatorial candidate Vanderhoof. After their unsuccessful bids, Strickland continued to serve in the Senate, where he chaired the Joint Budget Committee. Strickland ran for Governor in 1978, but was defeated by the incumbent, Richard Lamm. He ran again unsuccessfully in 1986. He served as President of the Senate from 1983 to 1992, when his peers elected him to this position.

Active in state, regional, and national associations, Strickland served on the governing board of the Council of State Governments (1983-1986), the executive board of the South/West Energy Council (1986), as president of the National Conference of State Legislatures (1987-1988), and was active in the National Governors Association (1988-1989). He also served as a presidential appointee to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental

Relations (1988-1990). After leaving the General Assembly, Strickland was elected to the Adams County Board of Commissioners in 1996 and in 2000.

In addition to his professional and political interests, Strickland served as director of the Denver Rescue Mission, director of the Colorado Humane Society, and president of the Adams County Young Republicans. He also was an active member in both the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists and the Denver Association of Petroleum Landmen. He died on March 14, 2012, in Adams County.

Colorado State Capitol; Senate Chamber

Fred E. Anderson (1928 - 2011)

Home: Loveland
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1975 - 1982

Fred Anderson, a native of Colorado, was born in Loveland on February 20, 1928, and lived close to his grandfather's farm. While attending Loveland High School, he was president of the senior class and the student body. He attended the University of Colorado, where he majored in economics and minored in political science. Anderson served in the United States Army from 1950 to 1952 and was stationed in Germany.

Anderson was first elected to the Senate of the Colorado General Assembly in 1966, representing Larimer County. During his first term in the Senate, he was Assistant Majority Leader from 1969 to 1970. In 1968, he was an unsuccessful candidate for the United States House of Representatives in the Fourth Congressional District.

In 1974, while Anderson was serving in the Senate, the Colorado Constitution, Article V, Section 10, was amended. The amendment removed the Lieutenant Governor as the presiding officer of the Senate and gave the Senate the ability to elect one of its own members as President. In 1975, Anderson was the first President of the Senate to be elected under the provision of this constitutional amendment.

In addition to his service in the Colorado legislature, Anderson held other prominent positions. He was on the board of directors of the Federation of Rocky Mountain States, and was a former president of the National Conference of State Legislatures. He also was a member of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Anderson passed away in Loveland on December 22, 2011.

Thomas E. Norton (1940 -)

Home: Greeley
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1993 - 1998

Tom Norton was born July 31, 1940 in Bremerton, Washington. He received his B.S. in 1964 from Colorado State University with a major in engineering, and a M.S. in civil engineering in 1969, with additional study in engineering management.

In his career, he has held positions of: consulting engineer, KLH Engineering; principal engineer, NHPQ Engineering; and consulting engineer, NUL Engineering. He served on the board of directors of the First National Bank of Greeley and Poudre Valley Bank in Fort Collins. In addition to serving as a past president of the Professional Engineers of Colorado, Northern Chapter, Norton was a member of several professional engineering organizations.

Norton was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1986 and served as vice chair of the committee on Local Government. He was a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures, American Legislative Exchange Council, Council of State Governments, Energy Council, and State Legislative Leader Foundation.

He was appointed to the Senate in 1988, and elected in 1990 and 1994. Norton served as chair of State, Veterans, and Military Affairs, and Capital Development committees and vice chair of the committee on Agriculture. He served as President of the Senate from 1993 to 1998.

Ray Powers (1929 - 2008)

Home: Colorado Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 1999 - 2000

Ray Powers, a native of Colorado Springs, Colorado, was born June 27, 1929. During his youth, Ray was active in the 4-H program. A leader in his local 4-H club, he was elected President of the Colorado State 4-H and won many national awards. He received the Agriculturist of the Year Award from his local Chamber of Commerce when he was 29.

Powers was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1978, and in 1980, he was elected to the Colorado Senate. He was elected Assistant Senate Majority Leader by his Republican colleagues in 1982 and served in that office until 1998 when he was elected President of the Colorado Senate. Powers' legislative priorities in the General Assembly were transportation and highways, criminal sentencing, and agriculture. He also served as chairman of the Legislative Audit Committee.

In addition to his service in the Colorado Senate, Senator Powers was active in many national legislative organizations. He served on the Executive Committee of the American Legislative Exchange Council and was later elected as its national chairman. He also served as chairman of the International Committee for the Council of State Governments and was chairman of the Council of State Governments - West. He received many awards during his legislative career, including the Career Service Award from the Colorado Public Affairs Council. He completed his legislative career in 2000, and retired to his ranch on the eastern edge of Colorado Springs. He passed away on September 19, 2008, in Colorado Springs.

Stanley T. Matsunaka (1953 -)

Home: Loveland
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 2001 - 2002

Stan Matsunaka was born in Akron, Colorado, November 12, 1953, to Harry and Mary Matsunaka. He is a 1971 graduate of Fort Morgan High School, where he was student body president. He received a B.S. degree from Colorado State University in 1975 with a biological sciences major, and received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of San Diego in 1979.

Matsunaka was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 1994. He served on the Business Affairs and Labor, Local Government, and Education committees. He was re-elected to the Senate in 1998, and served on the Committee on Legal Services, Business Affairs and Labor, and Education committees. When he became President of the Senate in 2001, he also chaired the Education Committee and served on the Public Policy and Planning Committee. Matsunaka was the first Japanese-American to serve as President of the Senate.

He was named Larimer County Outstanding Young Lawyer in 1985, and is a member of the American, Colorado, and Larimer County Bar associations. Matsunaka is a former secretary of the Young Lawyers Section of the Colorado Bar Association and past secretary of the Larimer County Bar Association. After unsuccessful runs in both 2002 and 2004 for the 4th District of Colorado in the United States House of Representatives, Matsunaka returned to private legal practice in Loveland.

Along with his political and legal careers, Matsunaka has a variety of interests. He served as president of the Loveland Sertoma Club; Boy Scout cub master and den leader; coach of Odyssey of the Mind teams; member and chairman of the Namaqua School Accountability Committee; and is a past board member and executive officer of several nonprofit organizations.

John Andrews (1944 -)

Home: Centennial
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 2003 - 2004

John Andrews was born on May 1, 1944, in Michigan, to John K. and Marianne Andrews, and grew up in Buena Vista, Colorado. After graduating from Principia College in 1966, he served as a U.S. Navy submarine officer.

Andrews was a speech writer for President Richard Nixon, an education appointee under President Ronald Reagan, and founder of the Independence Institute, a free-market think tank.

Andrews, a businessman and educator, represented Arapahoe County in the Colorado Senate from 1998 to 2004. He served on the Education, Finance, Judiciary, and Public Policy and Planning committees, and was also Senate Minority Leader. He was elected Senate President in 2003.

Andrews runs a communications company, teaches humanities at the Colorado School of Mines, does a daily commentary on public television, and publishes a monthly journal called Andrews' America.

Senate Chamber; facing President lectern

Joan Fitz-Gerald (1948 -)

Home: Golden
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 2005 - 2007

Joan Fitz-Gerald was born June 2, 1948, in New York City. She attended Marymount Manhattan College, earning a B.A. in political science/history in 1970. She attended Fordham University Law School after receiving her bachelor's degree.

Fitz-Gerald was elected as the Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder in 1990 and 1994. As the first woman to be elected to the post, she pioneered the use of mail ballots. She was appointed as a public member of the Motor Vehicle Dealer Licensing Board from 1993 to 1998. She was a congressional candidate for District 6 in 1996, and was elected to the Colorado Senate in 2000.

Fitz-Gerald received several civic awards including: the Colorado Bankers Award (2001); the Colorado Restaurant Association Iron Skillet Award (2001); the Colorado Public Employees Legislator of the Year (2002); the American Electronics Association Legislator of the Year (2002); and the Colorado Ski Country Legislator of the Year (2002). She was also awarded a Toll Fellowship from the Council of State Governments in 2001.

She was the first woman to serve as the Senate Minority Leader, holding that position from 2003 to 2004, and the first woman to be elected President of the Colorado Senate, serving from 2005 to 2007.

Peter C. Groff (1963 -)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 2008 - 2009

Born in Chicago, Illinois, on April 21, 1963, Peter Groff is an attorney, public servant, and political veteran. He earned a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in political science from the University of Redlands in 1985, and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver College of Law in 1992.

During the 1990s, Groff became involved in Colorado politics on several levels. He worked as an assistant to Denver city council member Allegra "Happy" Haynes from 1991 to 1994, and managed her 1999 re election campaign. In 1994, Groff was deputy political director for Roy Romer's gubernatorial campaign, and he worked for Denver Mayor Wellington Webb from 1994 to 1997. He also chaired the Denver Public Schools mill levy and bond campaign in 1998.

In 1997, Groff helped found the Center for African American Policy at the University of Denver and has served as its executive director, in addition to working as an attorney with Vaden and Evans.

In 2000, Groff ran for and was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. After being re-elected in 2002, Groff was appointed to the Colorado Senate in 2003 to fill a vacancy. He held the Senate seat that was once held by his father, Senator Regis Groff.

As a member of the Senate, Groff was the first African American to serve as the Colorado Senate President Pro Tem and Senate President.

In 2009, he was appointed as the Director for the Faith-Based and Community Initiative Center in the Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Education.

Brandon C. Shaffer (1971 -)

Home: Longmont
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 2009 - 2012

Brandon Shaffer was born on March 22, 1971, in Denver, Colorado. He graduated from East High School in 1989, where he served as "Head Boy" and president of the student body. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University in 1993, and his juris doctorate from the University of Colorado in 2001.

Shaffer was on active duty in the United States Navy from 1993 to 1997. He was deployed to Yokusuka, Japan, to serve aboard the USS Hewitt (DD-996) as an Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer, Deck Division Officer and Navigator.

Shaffer was first elected to the Colorado Senate in 2004 and was re-elected in 2008. He served as Senate Assistant Majority Leader and Senate Majority Leader before becoming Senate President in 2009.

Several organizations have honored Shaffer for his legislative accomplishments, including: Colorado Community College System Legislator of the Year (2010); United Veterans Committee of Colorado Distinguished Legislator Award (2009); National Biotechnology Industry Legislator of the Year (2006); and Multiple Sclerosis Society Legislator of the Year (2006).

Since leaving the legislature, Shaffer served as a member of the state Board of Parole, and is currently the Executive Director of Legal and Government Affairs for the St. Vrain School District.

John P. Morse (1958 -)

Home: Colorado Springs
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 2013

John P. Morse was born in Petersburg, Virginia on November 4, 1958, and moved to Colorado in June 1968. He is the eldest of ten children and comes from a military family. After graduating from Mitchell High School in Colorado Springs, he attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, where he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting and finance. He continued his academic career by receiving a master's degree in business administration from Regis University in 1984, a master of public administration degree from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in 1996, and a Ph.D. in public affairs from the University of Colorado at Denver in 2001. While pursuing his academic degrees, Morse worked in a variety of professions, including as an emergency medical technician; certified public accountant; law enforcement officer; police chief for the city of Fountain from 2002 to 2003; and in 2004, as president and chief executive officer of Silver Key Senior Services.

Morse was elected to the Colorado Senate in 2006 and was reelected in 2010. In May of 2009, he was named Senate Majority Leader to replace Senator Brandon Shaffer, and in 2013 Morse was elected President of the Senate. His other leadership positions include: chair of the Appropriations Committee in 2008; chair of the Judiciary Committee in 2009; chair of the Legal Services Committee in 2011; and chair of the Executive Committee of Legislative Council.

After leaving the Colorado legislature, Morse founded a CPA firm in Denver. He has actively served as a member of several professional and community organizations, including the American Association of Public Administrators, Colorado Society of Public Accountants, and Incorporated Board of Directors, Community Corrections of Colorado Springs.

Morgan Carroll (1971 -)

Home: Aurora
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 2014

Morgan Carroll was born on November 24, 1971, in Denver, Colorado, and is the daughter of John S. Carroll, who served in the House of Representatives from 1965 to 1974.

She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Colorado - Denver in 1996, and her law degree in 2000 from the University of Colorado School of Law. Since earning her law degree, she worked with her mother for ten years as an attorney for Bradley & Carroll, P.C., and she is currently employed by the law firm of Bachus & Schanker. Her legal expertise includes social justice issues, advocating for those with disabilities, and educating people of their rights.

Carroll was a member of the House of Representatives from 2005 through 2008, and has been a member of the Senate since 2009. Her leadership positions include: House Majority Caucus Chair from 2007 through 2008; Senate Majority Caucus Chair from 2011 through 2012; Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 2010 - 2012; Senate Majority Leader during the 2013 session; Senate President in 2014; and Senate Minority Leader in 2015.

Several local, state and national organizations have recognized Senator Carroll for her legislative accomplishments, including the Aurora Sentinel, Colorado Democratic Party, Colorado Nurse Alliance, American Civil Liberties Union, and United Veterans Committee.

Bill L. Cadman (1960 -)

Home: Colorado Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 2015 - 2016

Bill Cadman was born in Hollywood, Maryland, on October 4, 1960. Cadman served in the United States Army from 1982 to 1984, and was a member of the U.S. Army Reserves for an additional four years. He has a degree in business from California State University - Fullerton, and currently operates Advantage Marketing, a public relations firm specializing in political campaigns.

Prior to serving in the Colorado legislature, Cadman was the office manager for former U.S. Representative Joel Hefley from 1994 to 2000. In 2000, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, where he served until 2007. During that time, his leadership positions were House Majority Whip in 2003, and House Minority Caucus Chair from 2005 to November 2007.

In November 2007, Cadman was selected by a vacancy committee to replace Senator Ron May in the Senate. Since serving in the Senate, he has held the following leadership positions: Senate Minority Caucus Chair in 2010; Senate Assistant Minority Leader in 2011; and Senate Minority Leader from 2011 to 2014. Cadman was the President of the Senate in 2015 and 2016.

Cadman was a board member of Partners Youth Mentoring from 1995 to 1997; Chins Up Youth and Family Services in 1997; and the president of the Republican Leadership Program in 1995 and 1996. Cadman is a board member of the Colorado State Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

Kevin J. Grantham (1970 -)

Home: Canon City
Party Affiliation: Republican
President of the Senate: 2017 - 2019

Kevin Grantham was born on June 29, 1970, in La Junta, Colorado. The youngest of five children, Grantham grew up in the rural farming community of Crowley County in southeastern Colorado. He attended Ordway Baptist Christian School until graduating in 1988. While growing up he operated his own hog business, and worked as a photojournalist for the local newspaper, The Ordway New Era.

Grantham attended Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia and received his B.A. in Religion in 1992. During that same time he also worked for Domino's Pizza and managed a store there in Lynchburg until 1996. He moved back to Ordway in 1996, began working in the family business of real estate sales and appraisal. He moved to Cañon City in 1998.

In 2007 he was elected to an at-large seat on the Cañon City Council and served until 2010 when he was elected to the Colorado State Senate from District 2. From 2012 to 2014 he served as the Republican Caucus Whip. From 2015-2016 he served on the Joint Budget Committee. In 2017 and 2018 Kevin served as the President of the Colorado State Senate.

Several organizations have honored Grantham for his legislative accomplishments, including: Colorado Farm Bureau (2018), Colorado Contractors Association (2015, 2017, Infrastructure Champion), Independent Electrical Contractors (2016), Independent Bankers of Colorado, (2014, Champion of Main Street), among many others.

After serving in the Senate, Grantham returned to Cañon City, where he continues his work in commercial and residential appraisals and has been active in service-oriented organizations such as the Lions Club International, Elks Lodge 610, and Gideons International.

He was elected Fremont County Commissioner in 2020.

Leroy M. Garcia (1981 -)

Home: Pueblo
Party Affiliation: Democrat
President of the Senate: 2019 - 2022

Garcia grew up in Pueblo, a sixth-generation Coloradan. He is a first-generation college graduate, with an associate's degree in emergency medical services from Pueblo Community College, a bachelor's degree in management from the University of Phoenix, and a master's degree in organizational management from Ashford University in Iowa.

From 2001 to 2007, Garcia served in the Marine Corps, deployed to Iraq as a mortuary affairs specialist. He is a former member of the Pueblo City Council, where he was the youngest member to serve.

Garcia first served in the House of Representatives, elected in 2012. He was elected in 2014 to represent Senate District 3. He was named Assistant Minority Leader at the start of the 2017 Legislative Session and Senate President at the start of the 2019 Legislative Session.

Garcia teaches emergency medical services at Pueblo Community College and is a paramedic with Amerian Medical Response in Pueblo. He's a member of the Pueblo Veteran's Council, VFW Post 15006, American Legion Post 2 and the League of Marines Home of Heroes Detachment.

Garcia resigned in February 2022 to accept an appointment to serve as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs within the Department of Defense.

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Webster D. Anthony (1838 - 1896)

Home: Arapahoe County
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of House: 1876 - 1877

Webster Anthony was born on June 4, 1838, in Union Springs, New York, and was educated in the public schools there. In 1856, he moved westward to Henry County, Illinois. In 1858, he moved to Leavenworth, Kansas, and worked as a clerk in the office of the Register of Deeds.

In 1860, Anthony settled in Denver. From 1861 to 1863, he served as private secretary to William Gilpin, the first governor of the Colorado Territory. In 1863, Anthony was appointed clerk of the First Judicial District under Judge Benjamin Hall, and later under Judge Stephan Harding. After resigning from that position in 1864, he was elected treasurer of Arapahoe County and collector of taxes for Denver.

Anthony was chosen secretary of the 1865 state constitutional convention, which met in Denver between August 8 and 12, 1865. The proposed constitution was adopted by the people in September of that year, but was later vetoed by President Andrew Johnson. In 1867, Anthony was elected Arapahoe County clerk and recorder, a position he held until 1875. During his tenure as county clerk and recorder, he prepared a complete set of land title abstract books, which was the first of its kind in the area.

After Colorado became a state on August 1, 1876, Anthony was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in the first state general election held on October 3 of that year. In the first session, which convened on November 1, 1876, he was chosen Speaker of the House. In November of the following year, Anthony was appointed chief clerk of the United States branch mint in Denver, serving under Superintendent Herman Silver. Anthony remained in that position until 1884.

He then became associated with the firm of Anthony, Landon, and Curry, which furnished abstracts of real estate titles in the City of Denver and Arapahoe County, using the system devised by Anthony when he was Arapahoe County clerk and recorder. Anthony died June 22, 1896, in Denver.

Rienzi Streeter (1838 - 1918)

Home: Longmont
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1879 - 1880

Rienzi Streeter was born on February 11, 1838, in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. When he was 13 years old, he entered Hartford University, where he studied for three years. Two years later, he attended the Clinton Liberal Institute in New York for one year, and later studied at an academy in Homer, New York. In 1858, Streeter began studying law in the office of his brother, Ferris Streeter. After he was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1860, he practiced law with his brother for 18 months. He relocated to Nebraska to accept a position as court clerk under another brother, Joseph Streeter, who was an associate justice for the Supreme Court of the Territory of Nebraska. Streeter continued as court clerk until 1867, when he returned to the East.

While in the East, Streeter purchased property in Manitou Springs, Colorado. In 1868, he came to Colorado to inspect his property and decided to stay, but located in Boulder County. There, he and J. W. Turrell established a drug and grocery business in 1869. Streeter and Turrell moved their business and were among the incorporators of the Chicago Colorado Colony when it was founded in 1871. This community later became Longmont. In Longmont, Streeter expanded his business interests to include real estate and farming. Streeter was also one of the original incorporators of the Longmont and Erie Railroad in 1878, which later became known as the Denver, Longmont, and Northwestern. With George Starbird, he built a grain elevator in Longmont in 1879.

Streeter was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1878 and served as Speaker for the 1879-1880 biennium. Streeter's political career continued with his election to the Colorado Senate in 1880. During his senatorial term, he was chosen as President Pro Tem in 1883. He died in Atlanta, Georgia on April 16, 1918 at the home of his son.

William H. Doe (1818 - 1884)

Home: Idaho Springs
Parry Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1881 - 1882

William Harvey Doe, merchant and mining entrepreneur, was born in Clinton County, New York, on March 6, 1818. Although he had an early interest in shipbuilding and was apprenticed as a ship's carpenter, he never pursued the trade. His family later moved west to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where Doe became a merchant. His lumber business in Oshkosh was prosperous until 1859, when it was destroyed by fire. In 1860, Doe joined thousands of others traveling to the area later known as Colorado to search for gold. He and a partner purchased the Gunnell Mine for $3,500 and managed it successfully. Some years later, it sold for $84,000. During his first stay in Colorado, Doe helped to found Central City, but did not settle there permanently.

After a brief stay in New York City, Doe returned to Oshkosh and re-entered the lumber business. At this time, he turned his attention to politics and in 1866, was elected and served in the Wisconsin Assembly. He was also Wisconsin's representative to the Paris Exposition. He was later elected mayor of Oshkosh. In 1876, Doe's lumber business was again destroyed by fire.

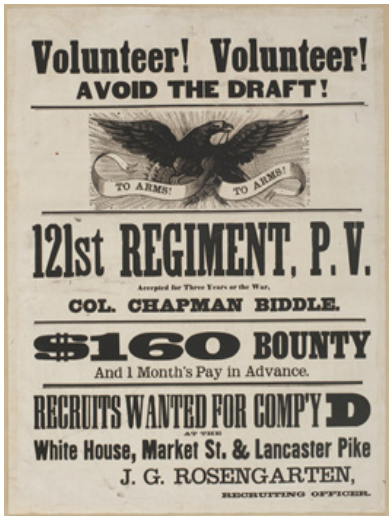
Lured back to Colorado in 1877, Doe returned and was later joined by his family including his son and his son's new bride, Baby McCourt Doe. He opened an assay office in Central City, but soon moved to Idaho Springs where he made his home. In 1880, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. He was chosen Speaker for the 1881-1882 biennium. Doe later became the president of the First National Bank of Idaho Springs. He died on August 6, 1884 in Pueblo.

Elisha W. Davis (1827 - 1887)

Home: Lake County
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1883 - 1884

Elisha Davis was born on September 8, 1827 in Butler County, Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Pennsylvania legislature for many years. Davis began his political career in 1859 as a representative from Venango County, Pennsylvania, and in 1861, he was elected House Speaker of the Pennsylvania legislature. During the Civil War, he served as lieutenant colonel of the 121st Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers until 1863. In 1865, he returned to the Pennsylvania legislature and was again elected Speaker in 1868. Davis was next elected to the state Senate in 1870 representing Philadelphia, and he served two terms as President Pro Tem.

In 1879, Davis moved to Colorado to practice law and engage in mining activities. He was referred to by the townspeople of Leadville as “Senator Davis,” though he never served as a senator in the Colorado General Assembly. Davis was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1882 from Lake County. His previous experience in the Pennsylvania legislature helped him secure the position of Speaker in 1883. In July of 1883, he was appointed an agent for the Ute Indians of the Uintah Agency.
He died in Philadelphia on February 13, 1887.



The 121st Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers was organized in September 1862.

Courtesy: Library Company of Philadelphia

Thomas B. Stuart (1846 - 1926)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1885 - 1888

Thomas Stuart was born on April 2, 1846, in Meigs County, Ohio. He was educated in Illinois and in Iowa. At the age of 16, he enlisted in Company C, Eighteenth Regiment of the Iowa Infantry and served three years during the Civil War. When his duty in the infantry ended, Stuart began his legal career with the law firm of Stuart Brothers at Chariton, Iowa. In 1867, he was admitted to the Iowa bar and practiced law in that state until he moved to Denver in 1882.

Stuart was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1884. When the fifth session of the General Assembly convened, he was chosen Speaker of the House. He was re elected to the House of Representatives in 1886 and was again selected Speaker for the 1887-1888 biennium. After two terms in the legislature, Stuart served as a district judge for the Second Judicial District from 1889 to 1890.

Stuart remained active in the legal profession and became associated with the firm of Stuart and Murray. In 1913, he relocated to Hawaii to accept the position as the first judge for the Hawaiian Circuit Court in Honolulu. He held the position of circuit judge for three years, at which time he returned to Denver. He died in 1926 in Denver.

H.H. Eddy (1855 - 1914)

Home: Axial
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1889 - 1890

H. H. Eddy, whose father was a pioneer and a member of the first Oregon state legislature, was born in Milwaukee, Oregon, on March 11, 1855. In 1865, the Eddy family moved to Jefferson County, New York, to reoccupy the family's homestead. At the age of 15, Eddy began a classical education at the Dean Academy in Franklin, Massachusetts, to prepare for admittance to Tufts College. After graduation from Tufts in 1876, he studied law at Watertown, New York, and was admitted to the New York bar in 1878. In that same year he traveled westward and for a short time lived in Topeka, Kansas, where he practiced law. He moved to Leadville, Colorado, in early 1879, and a few months later settled in Summit County. He continued to practice law and pursued interests in mining and prospecting.

Eddy was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 1880. As a senator, he represented Summit, Routt, and Grand counties. During his first senatorial term, he was appointed special agent of the land department in 1882 by President Chester Arthur. He held that position for two years. In 1884, he was re-elected to the state Senate representing the counties of Summit, Eagle, and Garfield. Eddy moved to Routt County in 1885, where he became a cattle rancher. He finished his second senatorial term (1885-1888) while living in Routt County. Eddy was elected in 1888 to represent Grand and Routt counties in the Colorado House of Representatives. He was chosen Speaker of the House when the legislature convened in 1889. He was re-elected to the House in 1890.

Eddy did not hold an elective office after his defeat in the 1892 congressional election. In 1893, he purchased the Evening Telegram in Colorado Springs. A short time later, he sold this newspaper and moved to Denver to become the editorial manager of the Colorado Sun. On July 1, 1894, he assumed editorial control of the Denver Times-Sun. After retiring from newspaper work, Eddy continued to practice law. He pursued his interests in mining in Colorado and later, for several years in Mexico. He died in Denver in July 1914.

James W. Hanna (1844 - 1910)

Home: Cortez
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1891

James Hanna was born in Cadiz, Ohio in April of 1944. He graduated from Cadiz High School in 1861 and attended Oberlin College. He then served in the Civil War as a member of the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment and later as a captain for the Eleventh Ohio Cavalry. During the war, Hanna's company, under the command of Colonel William Collins, was sent to establish a post in the Territory of Colorado. The fort, later known as Fort Collins, was abandoned as a military post in 1866, and Hanna was discharged as a major. He chose to settle in the nearby town of La Porte and became one of the town's first merchants.

Hanna then moved to southern Colorado and is considered to be a founder of Cortez. He was a leading developer of the Montezuma Canal, which routed water from the Dolores River to irrigate the Montezuma Valley for agricultural development.

Hanna was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1890 and became Speaker in 1891. He held the position of Speaker for approximately ten days. A majority of the House members disagreed with the committee assignments he made. His refusal to alter these assignments led to the selection of Jesse White as the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives for the remainder of the 1891-1892 biennium. Due to the unusual circumstances surrounding the election of White, an interrogatory was submitted to the Colorado Supreme Court. After his term in the House, Hanna was involved with various mining and irrigation interests until his death in Denver on July 23, 1910.

Jesse White (1833 - 1897)

Home: Silver Cliff
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1891 - 1892

Jesse White was born on March 16, 1833 in Fort Covington, New York. He served in the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War from 1861 to 1864 and was discharged due to ill health. White moved to Colorado in 1878 and practiced law.

Elected to the Colorado General Assembly in 1886, White was a representative for Custer County. In 1890, he was again elected to the House of Representatives and was selected the second Speaker to serve for the 1891-1892 biennium. James W. Hanna, the first Speaker of the 1891 session, was replaced by White when disagreement arose over Hanna's committee assignments. White later held the position of Custer County court clerk until his death in Silver Cliff on September 3, 1897.

Elias M. Ammons (1860 - 1925)

Home: Symes
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1893 - 1894

Elias Ammons was born in July, 1860, in Macon County, North Carolina. Ammons moved to Denver with his family in 1871. He initially worked in a woolen mill, but when his family moved to the Turkey Creek area, he worked in the lumber business there until the winter of 1874. Returning to Denver, he attended the Arapahoe Street School and graduated from that institution in 1880. He then obtained a position in the circulation department of the Denver Times. He later became the city editor and then the associate editor of the newspaper. In 1885, Ammons moved to Douglas County and formed a cattle business partnership with Thomas Dawson. The partnership was later dissolved when Ammons was elected Governor in 1912.

Ammons held several public offices. He was appointed by Judge John Campbell as clerk for the district court in Douglas County in August of 1890. Later that year, Ammons was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, representing Douglas County. During his first term, he was part of the Republican faction that supported James Hanna for Speaker in 1891. Re elected in 1892, Ammons became Speaker of the House and served for the 1893-1894 biennium.

When the national Republican Party voted to retain the gold standard at its 1896 convention, Ammons joined United States Senator Henry Teller to form the Silver Republican Party in Colorado. In 1898, Ammons was elected state senator for Douglas and El Paso counties, and he served from 1899 to 1902. In 1899 while in the Senate, he co sponsored Senate Bill 52 which designated Teller County as a separate county formed from the northwest portion of El Paso County. In 1904 and again in 1906, Ammons unsuccessfully ran for Lieutenant Governor. He was elected Governor on the Democratic ticket in 1912, promising to serve only for a single term.

Ammons was continuously involved in business, civic, and livestock organizations. He was an organizer of the First National Bank of Littleton and served as president of the Farmer's Life Insurance Company. He also took an active role in agricultural interests and was president of the Livestock Inspection Board in 1901. A trustee for the State Agriculture College at Fort Collins from 1909 to 1912, he also acted on behalf of the agriculture school at Fort Lewis. He served on the State Board of Agriculture from 1917 until 1924. Ammons helped to found the Colorado Cattle and Horse Growers' Association, and as president, organized the first stock show meeting, which has grown into the National Western Stock Show. In 1917, he became director and head of the Agriculture and Livestock Bureau, and in 1923, he became the president of the State Historical and Natural History Society. Ammons died in Denver on May 20, 1925.

Arthur L. Humphrey (1860 - 1939)

Home: Colorado Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1895 - 1896

Arthur Humphrey was born in Buffalo, New York, on June 12, 1860. His family later moved to Maquoketa, Iowa, where he attended public schools. After his public school education, his lifelong career in the railroad industry began with his apprenticeship as a machinist with the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad in Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

In 1880, Humphrey moved to California to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad. After one year, he was promoted to division foreman of the Colorado Division of the Southern Pacific located in Needles, California. In 1888, he accepted a similar position with the Colorado Midland Railroad in Colorado City (later Colorado Springs). Three and one-half years later, he became the superintendent of Motive Power and Machinery for the Colorado Midland.

Humphrey was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1892. During his second term (1895-1896), he was chosen Speaker of the House.

Humphrey continued his railroad career after completing his term as Speaker. His management abilities were widely recognized in the railroad industry. He was hired as the western manager of the Westinghouse Air Brakes Company and in 1919, moved to Chicago to become president and eventually chairman of the board of that company. He died in 1939 in Chicago, Illinois.

Edwin W. Hurlbut (1854 - 1925)

Home: Cripple Creek
Party Affiliation: Silver Republican
Speaker of the House: 1897 - 1898

Edwin Hurlbut was born on May 12, 1854, in Linneus, Missouri, where his father was in the mercantile business. Edwin Hurlbut was four years old when his father came to the western Kansas Territory in 1859. The Hurlbut family moved to Black Hawk in 1862, and Hurlbut was educated in the Gilpin County common schools. When the rest of the Hurlbut family moved to Utah in 1868, Hurlbut joined two of his brothers, who were in the drugstore business in Cheyenne, Wyoming. In 1875, he received an appointment to West Point and attended the academy for two years. He then traveled west to Deadwood, Dakota Territory, to establish a pharmaceutical business with another brother. He remained in Deadwood for three years.

Upon returning to Colorado in 1880, Hurlbut studied law in the firm of Henry Teller and H. M. Orahood in Central City. He was admitted to the Colorado bar in 1883, and entered a law partnership with W.C. Fullerton. In 1887, he was appointed to serve out the term of district attorney for the First Judicial District of Colorado, and he was then elected to that office in 1888. While holding the position of district attorney, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives from Gilpin County serving for the 1889-1890 biennium.

Following another law partnership in Denver with J. Livesay, Hurlbut moved to Creede at the beginning of its mining boom, and was elected mayor in 1892. He resigned the mayoral post in 1893 and returned to Denver where he practiced law until 1895. Once again, Hurlbut moved and opened a law office in Cripple Creek. He was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives a second time in 1896 from El Paso County and became Speaker in 1897.

In 1898, he was called to serve in the Spanish-American War. After declining a promotion to major and paymaster, he returned to Denver where he practiced law. He was an associate justice for the Colorado Court of Appeals from 1911 until 1915. He died in Denver on February 6, 1925.

William G. Smith (1857 - 1921)

Home: Golden
Party Affiliation: Teller Silver Republican
Speaker of the House: 1899 - 1900

William Smith was born in Newton, New Jersey, on April 27, 1857. In 1865, his family moved to Detroit, Michigan. Smith was educated in the Birmingham, Michigan, public schools. He was preparing to enter the University of Michigan, but his father's poor health necessitated the family's move to Colorado in 1872. Influenced by his father, who had been a prominent educator in the East, Smith developed an interest in teaching and pursued that profession in Jefferson and Douglas counties. He began a career in journalism in 1873, when he became a compositor for the Golden Globe. Smith purchased half interest in that paper in 1874, and by 1879 was the sole owner.

Smith became city clerk of Golden and private secretary to Governor Frederick Pitkin in 1880. From 1884 to 1888, he was superintendent of the Jefferson County schools, and was on the Board of Control of the State Industrial School from 1885 to 1886. In 1888 he was elected Lieutenant Governor, and as Lieutenant Governor, he also served as President of the Colorado Senate from 1889-1890. Although he was a leading candidate in the 1894 gubernatorial race, he withdrew in favor of Albert McIntire, who was elected. In 1898, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and served as Speaker in the Twelfth General Assembly.

In 1900, Smith became a tax agent with the Denver Tramway Company and later, property agent and president of the Denver and Intermountain Railroad Company. Smith retired from the Tramway Company in 1918. He then began practicing law in Denver and later served as a Denver County attorney. Smith died on November 3, 1921, in Golden, Colorado.

Benjamin F. Montgomery (1834 - 1912)

Home: Cripple Creek
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1901 - 1902

Benjamin Montgomery was born in Richland County, Ohio, on February 28, 1834. He was educated in the common schools in Ashland and attended the Ashland Academy. After studying law in Mansfield, he was admitted to the bar and then moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin. In La Crosse, Montgomery practiced law and organized a volunteer militia. From the volunteers he received the title of "Colonel" and continued to use it throughout his life. He later settled in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he worked as counsel for the Great Western Railway and the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad.

Montgomery came to Colorado in 1878 and settled in what eventually became the town of Cripple Creek. While in Cripple Creek, he practiced law and invested in mining operations in Red Cliff and Breckenridge. He was first elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1898 representing El Paso County. During his first term, Montgomery co-authored a bill with Elias Ammons to divide El Paso County. When the bill passed, Teller County was established with Cripple Creek as the county seat. In 1900, Montgomery was elected as one of the first representatives for Teller County. For the 1901-1902 biennium, he was chosen Speaker of the House. As Speaker, he was successful in guiding the passage of Colorado's first anti-trust law. He also served as Speaker for the 1902 extra session, which was called by Governor James Orman to deal with Colorado's tax laws.

Following his term as Speaker, Montgomery temporarily retired from politics. He moved to Colorado Springs and resumed practicing law. In 1906, he joined his son in a ranching partnership near Meeker. Montgomery returned to politics in 1912 and was a successful candidate for Lieutenant Governor. Before he took office, however, he passed away in Denver's St. Luke's Hospital on December 29, 1912.

James B. Sanford (1869 - 1904)

Home: Castle Rock
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1903 - 1904

James Sanford was born in Penn Yan, New York, on September 2, 1869. After attending Syracuse University and Hamilton College, he entered the field of education. He became the principal of the Officers' School at Fortress Monroe, Virginia. He later became the vice-principal of the Seeley Preparatory School to Princeton College at San Antonio, Texas. Sanford resumed his education by studying medicine and surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York and at the University of Baltimore. After his medical training, he was chosen as a resident physician at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, New York.

An extensive world traveler, Sanford conducted archaeological studies of the Aztec and Toltec civilizations in Mexico and Central America. He also traveled in China and the South Sea Islands, and was in Hawaii when Queen Liliuokalani was deposed in 1893.

Sanford came to Colorado in 1900, and settled in Castle Rock where he specialized in abdominal surgery. His medical career included serving as a surgeon for local railroad companies and as Douglas County health officer and physician.

Sanford was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1902. He was chosen Speaker of the House during his first term in the legislature and served as Speaker during the 1903-1904 biennium. He died on March 16, 1904, in Denver while still in office.

William H. Dickson (1871 - 1927)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1905 - 1906

William Dickson was born on December 5, 1871, in Pittsfield, Illinois. He was educated in the Pittsfield public schools and at Northwestern University. In 1892, he graduated from Northwestern University's law school, was admitted to the Illinois bar, and began practicing corporate law in Chicago. He was retained by the Chicago and Erie Railroad Company until 1901, when he moved to Colorado and continued to practice law.

In 1904, Dickson was elected a state representative and, during his first term, was chosen Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. He served as the Attorney General of Colorado from 1907 to 1908, and practiced law until his death in Denver on January 3, 1927.

Robert G. Breckenridge (1864 - 1938)

Home: Monte Vista
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1907 - 1908

Robert Breckenridge was born in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, on September 20, 1864. He was educated in Pennsylvania public schools, attended Grove City College, and completed his studies at the University of Ohio.

Breckenridge settled in Monte Vista, Colorado, in 1888. While living in Monte Vista, he was the assistant cashier of the Bank of Monte Vista. He then obtained a position with the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company, with which he was associated for 50 years, later becoming the director.

In addition to his professional career, Breckenridge held the offices of councilman and school director in Monte Vista. From 1903 through 1908, Breckenridge served as a state representative from Rio Grande County. He was Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives during his last term.

After moving to Pueblo in 1915, Breckenridge was involved in civic and business activities. Among his civic pursuits, he served as president of the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce. Professionally, Breckenridge held several positions including general manager of the Pueblo Flour Mills, director of the Railway Building and Loan Association, and president of the First Colorado Industrial Bank of Pueblo. He died in Pueblo in July of 1938.

Harry L. Lubers (1859 - 1944)

Home: Las Animas
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1909 - 1910

Harry Lubers was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 5, 1859. He moved to Kansas as a boy and attended public schools in Leavenworth and Salina. In 1880, Lubers came to Colorado where he read law and occasionally prospected. He moved to Prescott, Arizona, continued reading law, and was admitted to the bar in 1886.

Returning to Colorado the following year, Lubers settled in Las Animas and engaged in a law practice. Although initially associated with the Republican Party, Lubers became a Democrat in 1890. In 1900, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, representing Bent County. Known for his interest in irrigation law and his association with various reservoir, canal, and ditch companies, Lubers introduced the Irrigation District Act, which subsequently passed.

After his first term, Lubers returned to Las Animas and pursued legal and agricultural interests. He was elected mayor of Las Animas in 1906 and held that position for two years. In 1908, Lubers was again elected to the General Assembly and for the 1909-1910 biennium was chosen Speaker of the House. Later, in 1917, Lubers was appointed assistant district attorney for Colorado's Third Judicial District. He subsequently practiced law in Denver, where he died in 1944.

George McLachlan (1876 - 1941)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1911 - 1912

George McLachlan was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on April 24, 1876. His family moved to the United States in 1882. McLachlan lived in Kansas City, Missouri, until 1889, when he moved to Denver. McLachlan followed his father's profession and was apprenticed as a stonecutter at the age of 12. When he was 14, McLachlan entered the stonecutters union and remained a loyal, vocal supporter of unions for the rest of his life. He later served as the business agent of the Denver Building Trades Council and president of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly.

In 1908, he was appointed to fill a vacancy as alderman of Denver's Eleventh Ward, and later was elected to that position. While serving as alderman, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1910. He served as Speaker for the 1911 1912 biennium, and retained his position as alderman. As an alderman, McLachlan was responsible for the construction of the playground and bath house in Denver's Lincoln Park.

After completing his term as alderman, McLachlan was appointed deputy sheriff for the West Side Court. He later became clerk of the West Side Court and retained that position until 1927. He then became the bailiff and assistant librarian in the Colorado Supreme Court. He died November 16, 1941 in Denver.

Onias C. Skinner (1856 - 1922)

Home: Montrose County
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1913

Onias Skinner was born near Galesburg, Illinois, on December 16, 1856. He graduated from Carthage Lutheran College and attended a business college before settling on a farm near Arkansas City, Kansas, in 1872. He moved to Colorado in 1878, first residing in Canon City and later moving to Saguache.

While living in Saguache, Skinner pursued many different interests. He prospected, operated a saw mill, raised stock, taught school, and served as superintendent of Saguache County schools for two years. For a time, he also managed the Colorado Herald newspaper and thus began his career in journalism. Later, when Skinner moved to Montrose, he continued in this vocation by working as a newspaper editor for 17 years. During this time, he owned the Montrose Enterprise for 12 years.

In 1908, Skinner was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, and was re-elected in 1910 and in 1912. Skinner was recognized as a leader of the “platform” wing of the Democratic Party and as the father of Colorado’s initiative and referendum law. He was chosen Speaker of the House in 1913.

His other professional endeavors included the presidencies of the Montrose Ice and Storage Company, the Montrose Commercial Association, and the Western Slope Commercial Congress. He passed away on October 1, 1922 in Montrose, Colorado.

John H. Slattery (1862 - 1933)

Home: Silverton
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1914

Born in Malone, New York, John Slattery moved west as a youth. He spent some time in Bingham, Utah, before he came to Colorado and settled in San Juan County around 1887.

Slattery's mining pursuits eventually led him to become manager of the Iowa-Tiger and Inter Section Leasing Company. His interest in the mining industry continued throughout his life. He also engaged in mercantile and saloon enterprises, and was one of the founders of the Silverton National Bank.

Shortly after Slattery came to Colorado, he was mayor and councilman of Ironton. He again served in public office when he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1910. He was re elected in 1912 and was chosen Speaker of the House for the 1914 extra session. He returned to the legislature in 1919 as a senator and served two terms. Slattery died in Beverly Hills, California on October 20, 1933.

Phillip B. Stewart (1865 - 1957)

Home: Colorado Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1915 - 1916

The son of a Vermont Governor, and United States Congressman and Senator, Philip Stewart was born on January 27, 1865, in Middleburg, Vermont. He attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and Yale University, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1882. He came to Colorado Springs for a brief stay in 1884, but returned to Yale and earned a master's degree in 1886. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1895.

In 1899, Stewart returned to Colorado Springs where he engaged in various mining, utility, and banking activities. He was a member of the William A. Otis and Company investment firm, and was also involved in the educational community. He was the college basketball coach at Colorado College from 1902 to 1905 and a trustee and benefactor of that school for more than 50 years (1900-1953). He received honorary LL.D. degrees from both Colorado College and Middlebury College in Vermont.

Stewart refused the Republican nomination for Governor in 1906, but he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1914 and served as Speaker for the 1915-1916 biennium. He was an ardent conservationist and worked to preserve Colorado's natural resources. An active Republican, Stewart served as chairman of the Colorado Republican Party and was a close friend of President Theodore Roosevelt. He accompanied the President on hunting trips in Colorado. He died at his home in Colorado Springs on July 22, 1957.

Boon Best (1875 - 1929)

Home: Arlington
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1917 - 1918

Boon Best, a descendant of Daniel Boone, was born in Colorado's Arkansas Valley in 1875. Best was a cattleman, and president of the First National Bank of Rocky Ford. In 1908, he was elected as Kiowa County treasurer. Best served as treasurer until 1914, when he was selected to represent Bent and Kiowa counties in the Colorado General Assembly. During his second term, he was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives and served during the 1917-1918 biennium. Best was re-elected to the House in 1918. After completing his third consecutive term in the House, Best was defeated in his bid for a state Senate seat.

On February 10, 1929, Best was appointed warden of the Colorado State Penitentiary in Canon City by Governor William Adams. Later that year, Best suffered injuries from a car accident and died on August 30, 1929.

Colorado State Penitentiary; 1884
(photo courtesy of Denver Public Library)

Allyn Cole (1885 - 1963)

Home: Lamar
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1919 - 1920

Allyn Cole was born in Severance, Kansas, on December 19, 1885. He moved to Lamar, Colorado, around 1913 and practiced law there for 23 years.

Cole was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1916. After being elected to serve a second term, he was chosen Speaker in 1919. At the end of the 1919 session, Cole became a deputy district attorney for the Third Judicial District and served from 1920 to 1932.

In 1936, Cole moved to Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and practiced law. While in Glenwood Springs he served as district attorney for the Ninth Judicial District from 1945 to 1949. Cole unsuccessfully ran for the Colorado Supreme Court in 1948. He was later sworn in as a Colorado State Civil Service commissioner in 1951. Cole died in Palm Springs, California, February 13, 1963.

Roy A. Davis (1887 - 1977)

Home: Colorado Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1921 - 1922

A native of Greensburg, Indiana, Roy Davis was born on September 2, 1887, and moved to Colorado Springs in 1905. In the same year, he started his own typewriter business at the age of 18 and continued to manage this business until 1948.

Davis' service to the public included several positions in the Colorado General Assembly. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1918, and during his second term, was chosen Speaker of the House in 1921. In 1929, he returned to the legislature as a senator and became President Pro Tem in 1931.

In addition to his legislative service, Davis was recognized for his public service in other areas. He was a member of the Colorado State Board of Public Welfare for 25 years, 17 of which he was chairman of the board. He was first appointed to the board in 1938, and was reappointed by the next nine governors. While in Colorado Springs, Davis was a member of the city council, the Salvation Army board for 50 years, and the Colorado Chamber of Commerce. He also received national recognition during World War II when he sold over $60 million in war bonds. At the age of 89, he died in Colorado Springs on August 20, 1977.

Charles C. Sackmann (1879 - 1946)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1923 - 1924

Charles Sackmann was born on November 25, 1879, in Brooklyn, New York. When Sackmann was ten years old, he moved with his family to Detroit, Michigan, where he attended public schools. He graduated from the University of Michigan's law school in 1903. That same year he moved to Denver and was admitted to the bar. For a short time, Sackmann was associated with the law firm of Brown and DeLappe before he began his own general law practice in Denver.

In 1920, Sackmann was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. He was chosen Speaker of the House during his second term (1923-1924). Sackmann became a district court judge for the Colorado Second Judicial District in 1924. After returning to practice law from 1937 to 1942, Sackmann returned to a position as a district court judge for the Colorado Second Judicial District in 1942. He died in Denver on May 20, 1946, while still serving in that position.

William T. Lambert, Jr. (1884 - 1957)

Home: Sedalia
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1925 - 1926

A native of Colorado, William Lambert, Jr., was born in Denver on June 5, 1884. He was educated in Denver schools, graduating from Manual Training High School. Lambert moved to Douglas County in 1902 to assist his father in the family ranching business.

Lambert began his political career as a representative from Douglas County in 1919. He served from 1919 through 1926 and was elected Speaker of the House in 1925.

After serving eight years in the General Assembly, Lambert became a member of the State Civil Service Commission in 1927, serving until 1931. Following his service in the commission, he remained active in many Douglas County organizations. Lambert and his children continued to operate a 3,500 acre ranch until his death on November 15, 1957.

John A. Holmberg (1862 - 1952)

Home: Orchard
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1927 - 1928

John Holmberg was born in Sweden in 1862. He came to America with his family in 1864, where he was raised in Des Moines, Iowa. He graduated from Des Moines College at the age of 16 and immediately moved to Denver where he secured a job as a butcher's boy with the Colorado Packing Company. Based on this training, Holmberg began a wholesale meat business until 1901, when he was appointed meat inspector for the City of Denver.

Holmberg was elected Colorado State Auditor in 1902, and he was elected State Treasurer in 1904. As State Treasurer, Holmberg challenged the collection of a flat rate tax from Colorado corporations. The case was taken to court and the court ruled that the law was constitutional. Holmberg appealed the decision to the Colorado Supreme Court, which upheld the lower court's decision.

Holmberg moved to Morgan County and was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1922, serving through 1928. He was selected Speaker in 1927. He remained active in the Republican Party until 1937, when he retired on his farm near Fort Morgan, Colorado. He died in Morgan County on April 25, 1952.

Royal W. Calkins (1870 - 1961)

Home: Cortez
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1929 - 1930

Royal Calkins was born March 18, 1870, in Wyoming, Iowa. After attending high school in Nebraska, he enrolled at the State University of Iowa, where he received a M.D. degree in 1893. He also attended the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College and graduated in 1902. During World War I, Calkins served as a medical examiner.

Calkins moved to Cortez, Colorado, in 1908, where he lived for more than 50 years, and held both local and state public offices. He was a member of the Cortez school board, town board, and mayor. Calkins served as a state representative for 12 years (1921-1930, 1933-1934), and during his fifth term, he was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

As a resident of Cortez, Calkins donated his services as a team doctor to the Cortez High School athletic teams. In appreciation for his services, a school was built and named after him. The Calkins building now houses school administrative offices. Calkins died in Durango on December 9, 1961.

Delmar E. Hunter (1887 - 1966)

Home: Manzanola
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1931 - 1932

On January 12, 1887, Delmar Hunter was born in Knob Noster, Missouri, and was educated in Missouri public schools. In 1905, Hunter first moved to Rocky Ford, Colorado. In 1906 he moved to Fowler, where he worked as a clerk for the Trent-Boyd Mercantile Company. In 1911, he became a partner in the Larkine-Hunter and Morris Mercantile Company of Fowler. Hunter moved to Manzanola in 1914 and started a wide range of business enterprises, which he continued to manage until his death. He opened the Hunter-Conklin Mercantile Company in 1914, and one year later purchased Conklin's interest. Four years later, he began the Hunter Auto Company. He also owned and operated the Hunter Mortuary and was director of the Manzanola Building and Loan Association.

Hunter was elected to the Manzanola City Council in 1918. Later that year, he was chosen mayor. He also served as secretary of a joint school district in Otero County for ten years. Hunter was elected to the Colorado General Assembly in 1926. He served three consecutive terms in the House of Representatives and was selected Speaker during his last term. In 1932, he was chosen to represent Otero County in the state Senate and was re-elected in 1936. After leaving political office in 1940, Hunter returned to Manzanola and remained active in his business interests until his death on September 14, 1966.

Byron G. Rogers (1900 - 1983)

Home: Las Animas
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1933

Byron Rogers was born August 1, 1900, in Hunt County, Texas. His early education was interrupted by a year of service in the United States Army in 1918, but he graduated from the Checotah, Oklahoma, public schools in 1919. He attended the University of Oklahoma from 1919 to 1922 and the University of Arkansas for a short time. In 1922, Rogers came to Colorado for health reasons and continued his education at the University of Colorado. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Denver in 1925.

Rogers moved to Las Animas to practice law and later served as the city attorney from 1931 to 1933. In 1930, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. He was re-elected in 1932 and served as Speaker during the 1933 regular session and the first extraordinary session. In 1934, he accepted a position with the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Relief Administration in Washington, D.C. He returned to Colorado in that same year and was appointed assistant United States attorney for the District of Colorado. He held this position until July 3, 1936, when he was appointed Attorney General of Colorado. In 1936, he was elected to that office.

In 1940, Rogers made his first bid for the United States Congress from the Third Congressional District, but was defeated by J. Edgar Chenoweth. He remained on the political scene by serving as chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee from 1941 to 1942. From 1942 to 1945, he served on the War Labor Board. He once again ran for the United States Congress in 1950, this time from the First Congressional District and won the seat he retained for the next 20 years. He died in Denver on December 31, 1983.

Warren H. Twining (1876 - 1946)

Home: Aspen
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1933 - 1934
(2nd Extraordinary Session)

Warren Twining was born in Waterloo, Wisconsin, on January 12, 1876. His family moved west and settled in Georgetown, Colorado, in 1882. Twining was educated in the Georgetown public schools. Upon his graduation from high school, he entered Gross Medical College in Denver. He received a degree in 1900 and first practiced at the Wyoming State Hospital in Rock Springs. After a brief stay in Wyoming, he moved to Aspen to practice medicine. In 1905, he was elected mayor of Aspen.

In 1908, Twining was elected to the Colorado Senate representing Gunnison and Pitkin counties. Twenty years later, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives for the first of three terms. In 1933, Twining became the Speaker of the House for the second extraordinary session. The previous Speaker, Byron Rogers, had received an appointment in Washington, D.C., and was unable to return for the extraordinary session that convened December 4, 1933. Twining, who represented the small counties faction of the Democratic party, was opposed by Moses Smith who represented the larger counties. After two days and deadlocked caucus votes, Twining was elected Speaker. He then presided over the session that was called at the insistence of the federal government to raise necessary work relief funds.

Twining returned to the legislature two more times as a senator. He was elected in 1936, and again in 1944, and was serving in that capacity at the time of his death in Aspen on July 8, 1946.

Moses E. Smith (1883 - 1952)

Home: Ault
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1935 - 1936

Moses Smith was born on September 19, 1883, in Adrian, Missouri. His family settled in Colorado when he was eight years old. He grew up in Boulder, attended public schools, and later enrolled in a Boulder business school. In 1904, he moved to Eaton to work as a bookkeeper for the Steele Lumber Company and later became Steele's partner. He sold his interest in the business five years later and moved to Ault. He established his own lumber company in 1917.

Smith's political career began when he served as town clerk of Ault from 1908 to 1909. He served as a town trustee on two separate occasions, once from 1918 to 1922, and again from 1927 to 1929. Smith was mayor of Ault from 1923 to 1926 and also served on the local school board beginning in 1934. In 1930, Smith was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and continued in that office until 1938. He was chosen Speaker during his third term and presided over the House during the 1935-1936 biennium. While Smith was a representative, he was also a member of the board of directors of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. As a board member, he was active in promoting the Colorado - Big Thompson Project. He was a charter member and elected vice-president of the board of the Colorado Big Thompson Project of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District in 1937.

In 1938, Smith was elected to the state Senate and served from 1939 to 1942. In 1936, and again in 1942, Smith was a candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for Governor. On February 25, 1943, Smith was appointed superintendent of the Denver Mint by President Franklin Roosevelt. He held this position until his death on April 5, 1952, in Denver.

Wayne N. Aspinall (1896 - 1983)

Home: Palisade
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1937 - 1938

Born in Middleburg, Ohio, on April 3, 1896, Wayne Aspinall came to Colorado at the age of eight with his family, and settled in Wray. A short time later, the Aspinall family moved to Palisade, where they started a peach orchard in 1904. Aspinall attended local public schools and then began his undergraduate education at the University of Denver. He left the university to serve in the air service of the Signal Corps during World War I. Following the war, he resumed his education at the University of Denver and received his bachelor's degree in 1919. Returning to Palisade, Aspinall taught high school and continued his interest in the family's peach orchard. He also served as president of the local school board from 1920 until 1922, when he left his teaching career to study law. In 1925, Aspinall received a law degree from his alma mater, was admitted to the bar, and once again returned to Palisade. In addition to maintaining his interest in the peach orchard industry, he began practicing law and also taught school from 1925 until 1933.

Throughout his life, Aspinall served in a variety of local, state, and national offices. Besides being president of the local school board, he was also a member of the Palisade town board of trustees from 1926 to 1934. In 1930, Aspinall was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and served three terms (1931 1932, 1933-1934, and 1937-1938). Aspinall was chosen Speaker in 1937. The following year, he was elected to the state Senate and served from 1939 to 1948. While a senator, he was Majority Leader during the 1941-1942 biennium and Minority Leader from 1943 to 1948.

During World War II, Aspinall served as a legal expert with the American and English forces. He participated in the Normandy invasion as an American officer with the English Second Army.

In 1948, Aspinall was elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. He was assigned to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and in 1959, became chairman of that committee.

Throughout his 24 years in Congress, he was instrumental in the congressional authorization of more than a dozen water projects that have affected Colorado and the West.

In addition to his political career, Aspinall pursued many professional interests. He taught political science at the University of Wyoming, acted as a consultant for the Federation of Rocky Mountain States, and was a spokesman for the Western Slope's In addition to his political career, Aspinall pursued many professional interests. He taught political science at the University of Wyoming, acted as a consultant for the Federation of Rocky Mountain States, and was a spokesman for the Western Slope's Club 20. He also served as chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee of Colorado. Aspinall received honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Alaska, University of Denver, Colorado State University, and the Colorado School of Mines. He died on October 9, 1983, in Palisade.

William E. Higby (1884 - 1967)

Home: Monument
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1939 - 1940

On January 26, 1884, William Higby was born in Garden Grove, Iowa. His family moved to Colorado in 1888 and homesteaded the area near Eastonville, northeast of Colorado Springs. At Eastonville, Higby's father established a store in the Russell Gates Mercantile Company chain in 1889. In 1900, his father founded the Higby Mercantile Company in Monument.

After graduating from East Denver High School in 1906, Higby returned to Monument, where he worked in his father's mercantile company. During Higby's business career he was manager and later owner of the Higby Mercantile Company. He was also treasurer and director of the Greenland Land and Cattle Company, and president and manager of the Higby Livestock Company.

Higby's long public career began in 1910, when he was elected general treasurer of Monument. He was elected mayor of Monument in 1912 and served in that capacity for 20 years. In 1920, he was elected to the school board of District 38, a position he held for 15 years. Higby was first elected to state office in 1932 as a representative for El Paso County. During his eight-year tenure as a representative, he served as Minority Floor Leader from 1937 to 1938 and presided as Speaker of the House from 1939 to 1940. He was elected to the Colorado Senate in 1940. He did not complete his senatorial term because he was chosen Lieutenant Governor in 1942, and as Lieutenant Governor, also served as President of the Senate. Although he was a candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 1944, he was re elected Lieutenant Governor instead. From 1948 through 1958, Higby served on the Colorado Springs - El Paso County Board of Health. He died in Monument on February 28, 1967.

Homer Pearson (1900 - 1985)

Home: Wheat Ridge
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1941 - 1946

Homer Pearson, the son of Swedish immigrants, was born in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, on December 31, 1900. After graduating from Wheat Ridge High School, he attended the State College of Agriculture at Fort Collins. Pearson worked as a truck gardener and as a construction worker before he was employed as a nurseryman with Wilmore Nurseries in 1924. Beginning in 1929, he operated his own greenhouse, specializing in the growing of carnations.

Pearson was a leader in the development of Colorado's carnation industry and an active member and officer in many floral societies. Pearson was president of the American Carnation Society and the first florist from Colorado to become director of the Society of American Florists. He also served as a judge for many national flower shows.

In 1936, Pearson was elected to the first of five consecutive terms in the Colorado House of Representatives. He was the first legislator to serve three terms as Speaker of the House, from 1941 to 1946. While serving in the statehouse, Pearson sponsored legislation concerning the first rural fire protection districts, the first planning and zoning act, and the Water and Sanitation Act of 1939.

Following his ten years of service in the legislature, Pearson was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1946. After completing his term of office as Lieutenant Governor, he retired from state political office. He died on June 9, 1985.

William Albion Carlson, II (1908 - 1990)

Home: Greeley
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1947 - 1948

A native of Colorado, William Carlson II was born on October 30, 1908, in Greeley. He was the son of former Representative William A. Carlson, and the nephew of former Governor George Carlson. He graduated from the Colorado State College of Education with an A.B. degree in 1931. The following year, he received an M.A. degree from the same institution. He continued his education at the University of Michigan, where he earned a law degree in 1935.

After finishing law school, Carlson returned to northeastern Colorado where he worked in farming and ranching and as an attorney. For many years, he was a leading proponent of the Colorado sugar beet industry. He was a member of the Weld County and Colorado State Bar associations, and also served as director of the Weld County Livestock Growers' Association. In addition, he was commander of the Weld County Civil Air Patrol and a member of the Colorado Advisory Commission on Aeronautics.

Carlson succeeded his father, William A. Carlson, as a member of the Colorado General Assembly, when he was elected in 1938 to the Colorado House of Representatives to the same seat his father had held. During the 1947-1948 biennium, the younger Carlson was elected Speaker of the House. In November of 1948, he was again elected to the General Assembly, this time serving in the Senate until 1956. As a senator, he was Majority Leader for the 1951-1952 and the 1955-1956 bienniums. While a legislator, Carlson was particularly noted for his legislation concerning aeronautics, education, and the revision of the Colorado court system. He later practiced law in Greeley, where he died on February 21, 1990.

Pat Magill, Jr. (1911 - 1949)

Home: Steamboat Springs
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1949

Pat Magill, Jr., was born on December 31, 1911, in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He was the son of a pioneer family of Routt County and made his home there.

Magill attended grade school in Clark and went on to graduate from Steamboat Springs High School. He completed his education at Colorado State College of Education in Greeley. After finishing school, Magill returned to Clark, where he worked for two and one-half years in his father's ranching, livestock, and mining operations. The younger Magill also operated a sporting goods store in Steamboat Springs.

His early political activities included the formation of the Routt County Young Democrats Club. At the age of 28, he was elected to represent Grand, Moffat, and Routt counties in the Colorado House of Representatives. During his subsequent nine years of service, he was House Minority Leader from 1945 to 1948, and was Speaker of the House during his last term in 1949. His political career ended with his untimely death on December 25, 1949.

Ben Bezoff (1914 - 1979)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1950
(Extraordinary Session)

The son of Russian immigrants, Ben Bezoff was born in Denver on April 18, 1914. He attended Denver public schools and graduated from North High School at the age of 16. He continued his education at the University of Colorado, but soon transferred to the University of Wisconsin to study drama.

Bezoff returned to Denver in the early 1930s and attempted to find work as an actor. After a role in the Central City Opera Association's production of "Othello" in 1934, he went to New York in search of better opportunities. He returned to Denver in 1935 and started a career in radio. His radio career began as a soap opera actor for KLZ. For a short time, he worked for KOA, but returned to Oklahoma City where he was the news and special events director for WKY until 1941. During his tenure at WKY, he developed a friendship with subordinate Walter Cronkite. After leaving Oklahoma City, he worked in the state of New York for a brief period.

Once again, Bezoff returned to Denver. He was named as the news department director and chief announcer for radio station KMYR. During World War II, he was regional director for the Office of War Information and a war correspondent in Europe. At the end of the war, Bezoff resumed his work at KMYR as assistant station manager. While in that position, he became widely known for his commentary on political developments in Colorado. Responding to a challenge from one of his listeners, he successfully campaigned for a seat in the Colorado House of Representatives in 1946. He was re-elected in 1948 and was chosen Majority Floor Leader for the 1949-1950 biennium. Following the death of Speaker Pat Magill, Jr., in 1949, Bezoff was elected Speaker for the 1950 extraordinary session.

In 1950, Bezoff won election to the Colorado Senate. He made an unsuccessful bid for his party's gubernatorial nomination in 1952. Choosing not to run for re-election in 1954, Bezoff instead became public relations director and lobbyist for the Colorado Motor Carriers Association. He continued in that capacity until 1959. From 1947 to 1966, Bezoff ran his own advertising agency. He dissolved the agency in 1966, when Denver's Mayor Thomas Currigan named him chairman of the Commission on Community Relations and director of information at Stapleton International Airport. In 1971, he was named administrative aide to Denver's Mayor William McNichols and continued in that office until he resigned for health reasons in 1976. Bezoff died on December 30, 1979, in Denver.

David A. Hamil (1908 - 2002)

Home: Atwood
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1951 - 1956

David Hamil was born on December 3, 1908, on a ranch near Proctor, Colorado, in Logan County. After graduating from Sterling High School, he attended Hastings College in Nebraska where he was recognized for his scholarship, leadership abilities, and athletic prowess. He graduated cum laude from Hastings in 1930. He then returned to Logan County and entered the cattle business with his brother.

Hamil was elected to the first of five consecutive terms in the Colorado House of Representatives in 1938. He served in the General Assembly from 1939 through 1948, when he was an unsuccessful candidate for Governor. In 1950, he was once again elected to the House and re-elected in 1952 and 1954. During each of his last three terms, he was chosen Speaker of the House.

In June of 1956, Hamil accepted an appointment as administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) from President Dwight Eisenhower. He remained in that office until 1961, when he returned to Colorado. In 1962, Hamil made an unsuccessful bid for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. He was appointed Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Institutions by Governor John Love in 1963. Hamil continued as director of the department until 1969, when he returned to Washington, D.C., to once again become director of the REA at the request of President Richard Nixon. Hamil continued in that position until 1979. He died on July 27, 2002, in Sterling.

Charles R. Conklin (1920 - 1996)

Home: Delta
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1957 - 1960

Charles Conklin was born on June 23, 1920, in Delta, Colorado. After graduating from Delta High School in 1937, Conklin moved to Los Angeles, California. He attended Woodbury Business College and Los Angeles City College, and was also a member of the Screen Actors Guild. From 1942 to 1945, Conklin served in the United States Naval Reserve on active duty in the Pacific theater. In 1946, Conklin entered Harvard College where he graduated magna cum laude in 1948. While attending Harvard, he gained membership into Phi Beta Kappa and the Signet Society. Conklin was admitted to Harvard Law School in 1948, and graduated with a LL.B. degree in 1951. That same year, he became a member of the law firm of Sparks and Conklin in Delta, Colorado.

Conklin's political career began soon after he returned to Delta in 1951. He served as town attorney for Paonia from 1952 through 1954, and was elected in 1954 to represent Delta County in the Colorado House of Representatives. He was re-elected to that office in 1956 and 1958. Conklin was chosen Speaker of the House for the 1957-1958 and 1959-1960 bienniums. While serving as Speaker, he was appointed deputy district attorney for Delta County in 1957. Conklin was again elected to the House in 1964.

In 1967, Conklin moved to Washington, D.C., to become an assistant director for the Public Land Law Review Commission. After the commission completed its work in December, 1970, Conklin worked on the staff of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the United States Congress and, in 1975, became staff director for that committee. He died on November 16, 1996, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Albert J. Tomsic (1925 - 2012)

Home: Walsenburg
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1961 - 1962

Albert Tomsic was born on April 26, 1925, in Delagua, Colorado. He was educated in the public schools of Walsenburg before attending the University of Colorado. He served in the United States Army Air Force from 1943 to 1946, and returned to graduate with a B.A. degree from the University of Colorado in 1948. Three years later he earned a law degree from the same university. Tomsic was admitted to the bar in 1951. He then began a legal practice in Walsenburg and became a member of the Southern Colorado and the Colorado Bar associations.

While practicing law, Tomsic was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives for the first time in 1952. He served in this office consecutively from 1953 to 1962. He also served as county attorney for Huerfano County from 1957 to 1964 and as an assistant district attorney for the Third Judicial District in 1958. In 1957, he was elected House Majority Leader. His election marked the first time in 20 years that the position had been occupied by a Democrat. During his last term in the legislature, he was selected Speaker of the House.

In 1962, he did not vie for re-election, but ran against J. Edgar Chenoweth for the Third Congressional District seat in the United States House of Representatives, and was defeated. Beginning In 1965, Tomsic served as a judge in the Third Judicial District and remained in that position until 1985. He passed away in Walsenburg, Colorado on July 7, 2012.

John D. Vanderhoof (1922 - 2013)

Home: Glenwood Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1963 - 1964 and 1967 - 1970

On May 27, 1922, John Vanderhoof was born in Rocky Ford, Colorado. He was raised on a ranch in Larimer County. After graduating from Fort Collins High School, he went to Glendale, California, where he received an A.A. degree from Glendale College in 1942.

During World War II, Vanderhoof graduated from the Naval Aviation Cadet program and subsequently served as a carrier fighter pilot in the South Pacific. Vanderhoof's actions during the war earned him two Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Air Medals. After being severely wounded in action, Vanderhoof was assigned to the United States Naval Convalescent Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He remained in Glenwood Springs where he became a prominent businessman. He founded Van's Sporting Goods (1946), established the Glenwood Industrial Bank (1955), and the Bank of Glenwood (1963).

In 1950, Vanderhoof was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and retained that office for 20 years. During that period, Vanderhoof held important leadership roles that included eight years as Minority Floor Leader (1957-1962 and 1965-1966), and six years as Speaker of the House of Representatives (1963 1964 and 1967-1970). In the 1970 general election, Vanderhoof became the first Lieutenant Governor elected under the constitutional provision which, for the first time, required joint election of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. As Lieutenant Governor, Vanderhoof also served as the President of the Senate from 1971 to 1973.

When Governor John Love resigned to assume the duties as director of the White House Office of Energy Policy on July 16, 1973, Vanderhoof became the thirty-seventh Governor of Colorado. As an incumbent, Vanderhoof ran unsuccessfully for Governor in the 1974 general election. Vanderhoof also served as president of Club 20, a Western Slope lobbying and promotional organization.

He passed away in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, On September 19, 2013.

Allen Dines (1921 -)

Home: Denver
Party Affilation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1965 - 1966

On November 20, 1921, Allen Dines was born in Denver. He graduated from Yale University in 1942 and earned an LL.B. degree from Harvard Law School in 1948. Dines served from 1943 to 1946 in the United States Naval Reserve on active duty in the Caribbean and the Pacific theater. From 1949 to 1954, he was employed by the United States Department of State where he was involved with the foreign aid program. Dines began practicing law in 1954 with the Denver firm of Holme, Roberts, More, and Owens. He served as director and chairman of the board of the Colowyo Coal Company, and as a trustee of Colorado Women's College from 1966 to 1976.

At the age of 34, Dines was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. As a freshman legislator, he was named chairman of the Joint Budget Committee, where he gained four years of financial experience. Dines served in the House of Representatives for ten years until 1966. During the period from 1961 to 1966, he held the following leadership positions: House Majority Leader (1961-1962); House Minority Leader (1963-1964); and Speaker of the House (1965 1966). In 1966, Dines was elected to the state Senate and served as a senator until 1974. After serving 18 years as a legislator, Dines decided not to run for re-election in 1974. He resumed practicing law in Denver. He also served as the president of the board of trustees of the Donnell-Kay Foundation.

John D. Fuhr (1928 -)

Home: Aurora
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1971 - 1974

John Fuhr was born in Aledo, Illinois, on September 9, 1928. After obtaining a B.S.W. Degree in animal husbandry from Iowa State University in 1951, he moved to Colorado. He later received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Colorado State University in 1956.

Fuhr was elected to the first of four consecutive terms in the Colorado House of Representatives in 1966. He represented Arapahoe, Douglas, and Elbert counties. He served as Speaker from 1971 to 1974. While serving as Speaker, Fuhr was a member of the executive committee of the National Conference of State Legislative Leaders and became vice-president of the organization in 1972. In 1974, he was an unsuccessful candidate for Lieutenant Governor in the Republican primary.

Fuhr was active in many community and business related organizations. Among others, he served as president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the Denver Area Veterinary Medical Society, and chairman of the Aurora March of Dimes and the Aurora United Fund. He received several awards including two Colorado State University alumni awards: the Charles Lory Award and the College of Veterinary Medicine's Honor Alumni Award. His business interests include the Broadview Animal Clinic, a mobile home park in Larimer County, and a ranch in Elbert County.

Fuhr was a member of the State Board of Agriculture, the governing board for Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, and the University of Southern Colorado. He also served as a member of the Colorado State University Alumni Foundation board. In 1975, he was appointed to the President's Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity and served in that capacity until 1980.

Ruben A. Valdez (1937 - 2020)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 1975 - 1976

Ruben Valdez was born on January 27, 1937 in Trinidad, Colorado, where his father was a coal miner. His father died when Ruben was young and at the age of 15, Valdez began working in a Pueblo brick yard. He moved to California four years later where he became active in the United Steelworkers of America and was eventually elected a shop steward. He returned to Colorado in 1960 and remained active in the union. He later moved to Denver and became president of the Steelworkers Local 5099. From 1967 to 1970, Valdez was employed with Jobs for Progress, Inc., where he was first the Skills Bank director, and later the project director for the Service Employment Redevelopment program under the Manpower Development Training Act. From 1971 to 1978, he was a community relations consultant for the City and County of Denver. While working in Denver, Valdez received his high school diploma through the GED examination. He later studied business administration and personnel management at Denver Community College, Red Rocks Campus. He continued his education at Loretta Heights College and received a B.A. degree in political science in 1975.

Valdez was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1970, and served four consecutive terms. While a representative, he held the leadership positions of Speaker of the House (1975-1976), and House Minority Leader (1977-1978). In 1974, he was named as one of 50 outstanding state legislators recognized nationally by the Eagleton Institute for Politics at Rutgers University. He was given the El Congresso Award by the National Congress of Hispanic American Citizens in 1976.

During his fourth term, Valdez attempted to gain the Democratic Party's nomination for Lieutenant Governor in 1978. In December of that year, President Jimmy Carter appointed him secretarial representative for the United States Department of Transportation's Region VIII. In October of 1979, Governor Richard Lamm appointed Valdez Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Social Services.

Valdez participated in many community, national, and international activities. Among others, he has served as chairman of the National Chicano Advisory Committee to the National Urban Coalition and on the board of directors of the following: the Chicano Education Project; Metro Denver Urban Coalition; Metro Denver Legal Aid Society; Auraria Community Center; and National Council of La Raza.

He died in Denver in 2020.

Ronald H. Strahle (1921 – 1993)

Home: Fort Collins
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1977 - 1978

Ronald Strahle was born in Stanton, Nebraska in 1921. After graduating from Stanton High School in 1939, he enrolled at the University of Nebraska where he earned his A.B. and law degrees. During World War II, he served in the United States Marine Corps in the Pacific theater. In the Korean War, he was a special agent with the Army Counter Intelligence Corps (1951-1952).

From 1952 to 1953, he worked on the personal campaign staff of Dwight Eisenhower, and in 1956, he was named chairman of the Colorado Youth for Eisenhower. Strahle served as a member at-large on the Colorado Game, Fish, and Parks Commission from 1963 to 1966, and was chairman in 1966. During this period, Strahle was also a member of the Fort Collins library board and was a Larimer County public trustee from 1965 to 1966.

First elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1966, Strahle served seven consecutive terms as a state representative. In 1968, he was one of 50 legislators chosen on a nationwide basis for a Rutgers University Eagleton Institute seminar for outstanding state legislators. Strahle was appointed to the Council of Advisors on Consumer Credit for a two-year term by Governor John Love in 1974. During his tenure in the state legislature, he was elected to four leadership positions: Assistant Majority Leader (1969-1970); Minority Leader (1975-1976); Speaker of the House (1977-1978); and House Majority Leader (1981-1986). He practiced law in Fort Collins for many years. He died on October 29, 1993, in Denver.

Robert F. Burford (1923 - 1993)

Home: Grand Junction
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1979 - 1980

A third generation Coloradan, Robert Burford was born on February 5, 1923, in Grand Junction, Colorado. His family was involved in sheep and cattle ranching near Fruita, where he attended public schools. He graduated as class valedictorian from Fruita High School in 1940. After his graduation from high school, he won an academic scholarship to the Colorado School of Mines. During his four years at the School of Mines, he was on the staff of The Oredigger and was selected editor during his senior year. He was also named to Blue Key, Beta Tau (the professional engineering honorary), and was listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

Burford enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after receiving his engineer of mines degree in 1944, and served as an infantryman and as a military policeman in Okinawa and Saipan. Later, he was sent to northern China to become editor of the North China Marine. In 1946, Burford returned to Colorado and became a rancher. He later worked for the Permanente Aluminum Company, but after a year decided to return to ranching. He was chairman of the District Advisory Board of the Bureau of Land Management from 1981 through 1988 and held various offices in several livestock organizations.

In 1974, Burford was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. He served several terms in the House and was selected Speaker in 1979. In November of 1979, he was named one of the nation's outstanding state legislators by the Assembly of Governmental Employees. In 1981 President Ronald Reagan appointed Burford as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and he served as director until 1988. Burford died in Grand Junction on June 17, 1993.

Carl B. Bledsoe (1923 - 2012)

Home: Hugo
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1981 - 1990

On October 6, 1923, Carl Beverly "Bev" Bledsoe was born in Aroya, Colorado to Carl and Josie Bledsoe. He graduated from Kit Carson High School in 1941, and served in the United States Army Air Forces in the South Pacific from 1942 to 1945. Bledsoe earned a B.S. in animal husbandry in 1949 from Colorado State University.

Bledsoe began his public service career in the 1950s. From 1958 to 1962, he was secretary of the Lincoln County Stockmen's Association. For 12 years (1959-1971), he served on the Kit Carson Board of Education, including 2 years as president and 6 years as secretary. He was president of the Cheyenne County Farm Bureau from 1962 to 1964, and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association in 1967. He was a member of the Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine from 1968 to 1972, and a member of the National Western Stock Show Association. He served on the board of directors of Colorado Housing, Inc; the state's Committee on Educational Endeavor (1963-1967); and the Colorado State Fiscal Policy Committee (1968).

Upon appointment to the House of Representatives in June 1972, Bledsoe became the third member of his family to serve in the Colorado legislature. He was elected to his first full term in November 1972. He is the longest serving Speaker of the House, by serving five consecutive terms. During his 17 years as a legislator, Bledsoe earned numerous awards, including: the Colorado Association of School Boards Honor Roll in 1978; "Outstanding Rural Legislator of the Year" in 1979; American Legislative Exchange Conference "Outstanding State Legislator" Award in 1986; and Colorado Future Farmers of America Appreciation Award in 1988. His chairmanships include the House Committee on Finance and the Legislative Audit Committee. Bledsoe also served as chairman of the Council of State Governments, Western Region (1985-1986); was a member of the governing board and the budget committee for the Council of State Governments; served on the executive board, South/West Energy Council; and was vice-chairman of the International Trade Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. He died on June 5, 2012, on his ranch near Hugo.

Charles E. Berry (1950 -)

Home: Colorado Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1991 - 1998

Charles (Chuck) Berry was born July 1, 1950, in Pittsburg, Kansas, the only son of Paul and Margaret Berry. Raised in Colorado Springs, he attended local schools and graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1968. Berry earned a B.A. magna cum laude from the University of Colorado in 1972 and a J.D. from the School of Law in 1975. That year, he was appointed a deputy district attorney for the Fourth Judicial District, El Paso and Teller counties.

In January 1981, Berry was appointed El Paso county attorney by the board of county commissioners, and served in that position until his election to the General Assembly in 1984.

Berry served 14 years in the House of Representatives, from 1985 to 1998, representing District 21 in Colorado Springs and El Paso County. He was the Assistant Majority Leader from 1986 1990, and served on the House Finance, Judiciary, and State Affairs committees. Following the 1990 election, his colleagues elected him Speaker of the House, and he was re elected to the position following the general elections in 1992, 1994, and 1996, serving a total of eight years as Speaker.

Berry chaired the Legislative Council and the Executive Committee of Legislative Council during his years as Speaker, alternating with the President of the Senate. He served for two years on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

Berry received "Legislator of the Year" awards from a number of organizations during his service, including the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Ski Country USA, the Colorado Restaurant Association, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Colorado Assessors Association, and the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry.

In June 2000, Berry was named president and CEO of the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry (CACI).

Russell L. George (1946 -)

Home: Rifle
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 1999 - 2000

A fourth generation Coloradan, Russell George was born on May 28, 1946, in Rifle, Colorado. His family was involved in cattle ranching and farming near Rifle where he attended public schools. He graduated from Rifle Union High School in 1964, and attended Colorado State University as a Boettcher Scholar, graduating in 1968 with a B.S. degree in economics. He received a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1971. After practicing law in Denver, he served as an Action/Vista Volunteer with the Crow Tribe in Montana. In 1976, George joined a law office in Rifle where he practiced until 2000.

He has been involved in several government and civic organizations. George has served as Rifle municipal judge. He has also served as a member, director, officer, or counsel for water districts, civic and fraternal organizations, political groups, and bar associations.

George was elected to the first of four consecutive terms in the Colorado House of Representatives in 1992, representing Garfield, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, and Moffat counties. He served as Speaker during his fourth term.

After leaving the Colorado legislature, George served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife from September 2000 through 2003. He then served as the Executive Director of the Department of Transportation.

Doug Dean (1960 -)

Home: Colorado Springs
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 2001 - 2002

On December 31, 1960, Doug Dean was born to Daniel and Bernice Dean of Story City, Iowa. He graduated from Tennessee Temple Academy in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1979. He then attended Tennessee Temple University and the University of Tennessee.

First elected to the House of Representatives in 1994 to represent House District 18 in El Paso County, he served as vice chairman of the Committee on Education, and was a member of the Business Affairs and Labor and the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs committees. He was also a member of the Colorado Tourism Board (1997-1999), and the Fire and Police Pension Reform Commission. He served as House Majority Leader from 1999 to 2000, and as Speaker from 2001 to 2002.

His honors include: 2000 Legislator of the Year - Colorado Restaurant Association; the National Federation of Independent Business Guardian of Small Business; Colorado Library Association Legislator of the Year; Charter School Legislator of the Year; Defender of Freedom Award from the National Rifle Association; Taxpayer Guardian Award from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers; Colorado Springs Chamber Legislator of the Year; the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs Alumni Legislator Award; and the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry Friends of Business Award.

Upon leaving the legislature, he served as the Colorado Insurance Commissioner from 2003 to February 2005, when he was named Director of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

Lola A. Spradley (1946 -)

Home: Beulah
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 2003 - 2004

A native Coloradan, Lola Fox was born on June 28, 1946, in Burlington, Colorado. Her parents and eight siblings farmed in the New Raymer area. She graduated from Fort Morgan High School in 1964. She received her bachelor of science degree in business administration from Regis College in 1992, graduating summa cum laude.

She is the owner and operator of Spradley Ranch. Her other business roles include: president of Lil Kid's Stuff, Inc.; assistant vice president/division manager, AT&T, Colorado; and district manager, AT&T, Wyoming/Colorado.

Spradley was appointed to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1997 to complete a vacated term. She was re elected in 1998, 2000, and 2002, representing House District 60, which includes: Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, Pueblo, and Saguache counties. She served as Assistant House Majority Leader, (1999-00) and House Majority Leader (2001-02). She also served on the Executive Committee of Legislative Council and the Legislative Council. In 2003, Spradley was the first woman to be elected Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives.

She served on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Telecommunications (1995-96), the Governor's Commission on Saving Open Space, Farms, and Ranches (2000), and as chair of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee (2001-02.)

Spradley has received numerous honors, including those from: the National Federation of Independent Business; AT&T; Colorado County Agents; American Electronics Association; Pikes Peak Council of Governments; American Association of Retired Persons; Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry; Colorado Economic Development Council; Colorado Mining Association; American Planning Association; and Colorado Renewable Energy Society.

Andrew Romanoff (1966 -)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 2005 - 2008

Andrew Romanoff was born in Washington D.C., in 1966, and was the first Democrat to hold the post of Speaker of the House since 1975. Romanoff earned a bachelor's degree at Yale University in 1989, and a master's degree in public policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in 1993.

Romanoff was elected to the House in 2000, and re-elected in 2002, 2004, and 2006. He represented House District 6, covering east Denver and Glendale. Before his election as Speaker in 2005, he served as the House Minority Leader.

During the legislative interim, Representative Romanoff taught political science at several area colleges and universities. He has also taught in Central America and speaks fluent Spanish.

In 2006, he was the youngest recipient to be awarded the William M. Bulger Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award for his role as House Speaker. The award is given by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation and the National Conference of State Legislatures in recognition of a legislative leader whose work preserves and builds public trust in the institution of the state legislature, and whose career embodies the highest principles of leadership: integrity, compassion, vision, and courage.

Since leaving the Colorado legislature, Romanoff was a senior advisor with International Development Enterprises, and in 2015 he was named the CEO of Mental Health America of Colorado.

Terrance Carroll (1969 -)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 2009 - 2010

Terrance Carroll was born in Washington D.C., on January 16, 1969, as an only child of a single mother who was a sharecropper's daughter. After graduating from high school, he attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he studied political science and ran track. In 1992, he came west and earned a master's of divinity at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, and his law degree at the University of Denver Law School.

Carroll was appointed to an open House seat in 2003 and was re-elected for three terms. He is known for his strong support of education reform and charter schools, as well as his interest in civil justice, criminal justice, and homeland security issues.

His legislative positions include chair of the House Judiciary Committee, and House Assistant Majority Leader in 2008. With his selection as Colorado Speaker of the House, Carroll is the first African American to hold this position.

Carroll is a member of the Colorado Bar Association, Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, and Sam Cary Bar Association. He has also served on the Election Law Task Force of the Colorado Lawyers Committee, and the Blue Ribbon Election Panel of the Colorado Secretary of State. Carroll also received the 2007 Roger Cisneros Public Service Award.

Frank McNulty (1973 -)

Home: Highlands Ranch
Party Affiliation: Republican
Speaker of the House: 2011 - 2012

Frank McNulty was born in Blue Island, Illinois, on February 2, 1973, to Frank and Denise McNulty. The oldest of six children, McNulty was raised in southern Jefferson County and educated at J.K. Mullen High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1995. Following his graduation, he accepted a position in the Washington, D.C. office of Congressman Wayne Allard. While in this position, McNulty assisted with veterans' issues, civil service affairs, and deficit reduction.

In 1998, McNulty returned to Colorado to pursue his law degree at the University of Denver, concentrating on natural resources and water law. During this time, he began working on public policy at the state level. He joined Governor Bill Owens' administration in 2000, and served as assistant director for water for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. As the assistant director, he supported the legislation deemed the most significant update to water policy in the previous five decades.

McNulty was elected to the House of Representatives in 2006, and served two terms in the House of Representatives prior to his election as Speaker in 2011. As Speaker of the House, he was the chair of the Executive Committee of Legislative Council and the Legislative Council Committee in 2012. During his service in the House, McNulty concentrated on limiting state government's role and improving the business climate in Colorado. He was also known, on occasion, to pull a prank or two on fellow members and House staff.

Since leaving the legislature, McNulty joined the law firm of Spencer, Fane and Grimshaw in Denver. His professional and state association memberships include the Colorado State Bar Association, Douglas/Elbert Counties Bar Association, Colorado State Shooting Association, and Firearms Coalition of Colorado.

Mark Ferrandino (1977 -)

Home: Denver
Party Affiliation: Denver
Speaker of the House: 2013 - 2014

Mark Ferrandino was born in Nyack, New York, on August 9, 1977, 13 minutes before his twin sister. His parents were educators, and his father was superintendent of high schools in the New York City public school system.

Ferrandino has a bachelor's degree in political science and economics, and a master's degree in public policy analysis from the University of Rochester. As a college student, he spent a semester in Washington, D.C., interning for United States Representative Charles Schumer.

Ferrandino worked as a policy analyst for the White House Office of Management and Budget under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. After moving to Colorado in 2003, he was employed as a program analyst for the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General. He was then hired as a senior budget analyst for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing during Governor Bill Owens' administration.

In 2007, Ferrandino was selected by a vacancy committee to replace Representative Mike Cerbo in Denver's House District 2 in the Colorado House of Representatives. From 2009 through 2011, he was the ranking Democrat on the Joint Budget Committee, and during the 2012 legislative session he served as House Minority Leader. He was sworn in as Speaker of the House on January 9, 2013.

Ferrandino has actively participated in state politics in a variety of positions. He served as the treasurer of the Colorado Democratic Party from 2005 through 2007, and as co-captain of House District 2A and co-chair of the Colorado Stonewall Democrats. In 2007 he was named Colorado Young Democrat of the Year, and the Colorado Democratic Party named him Rising Star in 2010.

After serving as Speaker of the House, Ferrandino was named chief financial officer for Denver Public Schools in July 2014. In 2020, he was appointed Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Revenue.

Dickey Lee Hullinghorst (1943 -)

Home: Longmont
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 2015 - 2016

Dickey Lee Hullinghorst was born on July 27, 1943, in rural Maywood, Nebraska, and is named after her father, Richard. She is the first Democratic woman elected as Speaker of the House, the second woman to serve in this position, and the first Speaker from Boulder County since 1880.

Hullinghorst attended the University of Wyoming where she earned her bachelor's degree in sociology. She has completed public policy graduate work at the University of Colorado, Denver. Hullinghorst's career in public policy and government affairs includes serving as the legislative affairs director of the Colorado Open Space Council for two years, and as intergovernmental relations director for Boulder County for 22 years. While serving in this position, Hullinghorst helped develop the Boulder County Countywide Coordinated Comprehensive Development Plan Intergovernmental Agreement, which oversees Boulder County development and land preservation policies. For her work on this project, Hullinghorst was awarded the Denver Regional Council of Governments Metro Vision First Place Award and the National Association of Counties intergovernmental cooperation award.

Hullinghorst has served in the Colorado House of Representatives since 2009. Before being named Speaker in 2015, she served as House Minority Deputy Whip and House Minority Whip in 2011 and 2012, and House Majority Leader in 2013 and 2014.

She has been active in state and local politics for decades. She was a delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention, she is a past vice-president of the Colorado Women's Political Caucus, and past president of the Colorado Democratic Women's Political Action.

Hullinghorst has served on several local boards and commissions, including Boulder County's Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, Healthy Communities Steering Committee, Resource Conservation Advisory Board, and Mental Health Center Board, as well as the city of Boulder's Blue Ribbon Commission on Revenue Stability. Her gubernatorial appointments include the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board, the Front Range Project Steering Committee, and the Metropolitan Water Roundtable.

Crisanta Duran (1980-)

Home: Colorado
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Speaker of the House: 2017-2019

Crisanta Duran was born on August 23, 1980 in Boulder, Colorado. She is a sixth generation Coloradan with Mexican and Native American ancestry. Duran was the first Latina to serve as a state Speaker of the House from 2017-2019 in the United States and was the youngest woman in Colorado to do so as she served in the Colorado House of Representatives from 2011-2019.

Duran is a graduate of the University of Denver with a double major in Public Policy and Spanish in 2002, the University of Colorado School of Law in 2005, where she was elected President of the Student Bar Association and chosen to be on the Rothgerber Moot Court Team. She also graduated from the Harvard Kennedy School Executives in Government program in 2017, and the Aspen Institute's Rodel Public Leadership Fellowship.

Duran was elected to the House of Representatives in 2010 and served four terms. She served as the chairperson of the Joint Budget Committee from 2013 to 2014, then served as Majority Leader from 2015 to 2017. In 2020, she made a report to the Denver Police about being beaten and raped prior to the time she became Speaker of the House.

She is a results driven leader as her career has largely focused on transformative change by advancing economic security, equity in education, voting rights, racial justice, and addressing climate change.

She was a featured speaker at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, and in 2016 she won the national Emily's List Rising Star Award, given annually to "an extraordinary woman serving in state or local office." Duran has served as a board member of Let America Vote, the National Association of Latino/a Elected and Appointed Officials, National Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs and a National Co-Chair of the Voto Latino Impact Council.

She has received over 40 awards from different organizations for her leadership, including: Conservation Colorado Legislator of the Year Award in 2014, Washington Post 40 Under 40 Rising Star Award in 2014, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award in 2016, LiveWell Colorado Legislative Champion Award in 2017, Jewish Colorado Legislative Appreciation Award in 2017, Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce Top 25 Most Powerful Women Award in 2018, Colorado Housing Finance Authority Award in 2018, One Colorado Ally Award in 2019, and the United Veterans Committee of Colorado Distinguished Service Award.

KC Becker (1969 -)

Home: Boulder
Party Affiliation: Democrat

Speaker of the House: 2019-2021

Kathleen Collins (KC) Becker was born November 13, 1969 in Vero Beach, Florida. Becker grew up with four sisters and two step siblings.

Becker graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in Government. She promptly moved west, ending up in Portland, Oregon to attend Lewis and Clark Law School. She graduated from law school in May 1996.

She was then accepted into the Department of the Interior's Honors Program, where she spent over six years working at the Department of the Interior on national policy and public land issues in Colorado and Wyoming. She earned a Masters of Science in Real Estate Development and Construction Management in 2005 from the University of Denver's Daniels School of Business. Becker served on Boulder's Planning Board before being elected to a four-year term of the Boulder City Council in November 2009. She served as the council's representative to the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Becker was appointed to the House of Representatives by a vacancy committee in 2013, and was then elected to three subsequent terms. She served as House Majority Leader from 2017 to 2018.

She received awards and honors including Independent Bankers Association: Champion of Small Business (2015 & 2019), Mothers Against Drunk Driving: Legislative Champion (2015), University of Colorado: Legislative Champion (2015 & 2018), Colorado Restaurant Association: Iron Skillet Award (2016), Common Cause: Democracy Champion (2016), Colorado Association of School Boards: Legislative Excellence Award (2017), Colorado Association of School Executives: Policy Leader Award (2017 & 2018), Colorado Rural Electric Association: Courage Award (2017), Senior Lobby Bipartisan Leadership Award (2017), University of Colorado: Legislator of the Year (2017), Cleantech Industries Association: Legislator of the Year (2018), Colorado Ceasefire: Leadership Award (2018), Colorado Trial Lawyers Association: Legislator of the Year (2018), Conservation Colorado: Legislator of the Year (2018), St. Vrain Valley Schools: Excellence in Education Award (2018), Healthier Colorado: Impact Award (2019 & 2020), and the Women Transforming Government Leadership Award.

After serving as Speaker of the House, Becker joined the Denver law office of Wilkinson Barker and Knauer as a partner. She is a member of the International Women's Forum. On November 21, 2021, President Biden appointed Becker to the EPA Regional 8 Office in the role of Regional Administrator.

Acknowledgments

The Colorado General Assembly wanted to acknowledge its legislative leaders with a written collection of biographies on the Colorado Senate Presidents and Speakers of the House. As a result, Legislative Council Staff compiled, researched and wrote the "Presidents and Speakers of the Colorado General Assembly: a Biographical Portrait from 1876," published in 1980. As legislators and as private citizens, these individuals have contributed to the growth of this nation and the state of Colorado.

Legislative Council Staff has updated this 1980 edition by revising entries from the first edition and adding entries for successive Senate Presidents and House Speakers, and will add entries for future Colorado Senate Presidents and Speakers of the House. Hopefully, these biographical profiles will be of value to the citizens of Colorado in better understanding the state's heritage and development. An electronic version of this book is available at: http://bit.ly/PresidentsSpeakers.

The Colorado Senate and House Journals and the Session Laws of Colorado were used as the authoritative sources for determining the names, terms of office, political affiliations, and places of residence at the time those individuals served as Senate President or Speaker of the House. Additional information on the Senate Presidents and Speakers of the House and members of the Colorado General Assembly is available from the Colorado Legislators Past and Present website: http:bit.ly/Memberbios.

The editors wish to thank Lyle Kyle, Delores Lanier, David Myers, Tina Walls, Debra Wilcox, and Lee Bahrych for researching, writing, and compiling the original legislative biographies. We also wish to acknowledge the contributions of Presidents and Speakers who provided information for their biographies.

Natalie Mullis
Director

The Colorado Legislative Council would like to express its appreciation and thanks to the following:

Colorado Board of Agriculture
Colorado College, Tutt Library, Special Collections Staff
Colorado General Assembly and Staff
Colorado Legislative Council Staff
Colorado Legislative Information Services
Colorado Press Association
Colorado Railroad Museum
Colorado State Archives
Colorado State Historical Society
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Democratic State Central Committee
The Denver Post Library
Denver Public Library, Western History Department
Donn Bruns, Lifestyle Photography
Douglas County Public Library
Drinkwine Mortuary, Littleton, Colorado

Florence Pioneer Museum and Historical Society
Fremont-Custer Historical Society, Inc.
Historical Research Cooperative, Leadville, Colorado

Legislative Office for Research Liaison, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Longmont Pioneer Museum

New Mexico State Records Center and Archives

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