



## SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23-001

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

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Froelich, Amabile, Armagost, Bacon, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bottoms, Bradfield, Bradley, Catlin, DeGraaf, deGruy Kennedy, Dickson, Duran, English, Epps, Evans, Frizell, Garcia, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hamrick, Hartsook, Herod, Holtorf, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Luck, Lukens, Lynch, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Parenti, Pugliese, Ricks, Sharbini, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Story, Taggart, Titone, Velasco, Vigil, Weinberg, Weissman, Willford, Wilson, Winter T., Woodrow, Young, McCluskie.

## MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR DOTTIE WHAM.

WHEREAS, Dorothy ("Dottie") Stonecipher Wham departed this life on October 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Dottie was born in Centralia, Illinois on January 5, 1925; and

WHEREAS, Dottie received a bachelor's degree from McMurray College, a master's degree from the University of Illinois, and an honorary doctorate from McMurray College as a distinguished alumna; and

WHEREAS, Dottie married her high school sweetheart, Robert Wham, on January 26, 1947; and

WHEREAS, Bob and Dottie moved from Illinois to Montrose,

Colorado in 1950, and then moved to Denver in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Dottie served as the Regional Director for Colorado and Wyoming for the federal domestic volunteer agency known as "ACTION" for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Dottie served in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1983 to 1986, and in the Colorado Senate from 1986 to 2000; and

WHEREAS, Dottie served as Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Dottie was the first person to chair the Senate Judiciary Committee who was not an attorney; and

WHEREAS, During her legislative career, Dottie served as the prime sponsor for 321 House and Senate bills, of which 243 were enacted into law; and

WHEREAS, One of the accomplishments of which Senator Wham was very proud was her work to establish a trauma system throughout the state to ensure that persons injured by trauma were taken to the most appropriate facility as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of the trauma system took 9 years of work with other legislators, rural and urban hospitals, patient representatives, fire departments, and professional associations of physicians, nurses, and emergency medical technicians; and

WHEREAS, That system is still in place and operating smoothly today; and

WHEREAS, Other bills of note carried by Dottie Wham include bills to establish confidential testing for the HIV virus, establishment of a system to test all newborn infants in the state for hearing loss, standards and procedures for advanced directives for end of life care, and several omnibus criminal justice bills; and

WHEREAS, Dottie Wham was recognized by the Hon. Scott McGinnis on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on

May 23, 2000, as the "citizen-legislator ideal" and as "a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate", and by the Hon. Diana DeGette on November 15, 2019, as a "true public servant in every sense of the word", who had a "deep and unwavering commitment to work across the political aisle to get things done for her community"; and

WHEREAS, Dottie Wham will be remembered for her humor, compassion, practicality, and her integrity, in addition to being a good friend and a good citizen; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the General Assembly, pay tribute to the dedicated service of Representative and Senator Dorothy Stonecipher Wham and express our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by her death; now, therefore,

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

That, in the death of Dorothy Stonecipher Wham, the people of the state of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family and pay tribute to a woman who served the state well and faithfully.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent to Representative and Senator Wham's children, Nancy Mitchell of Franktown, Dr. Jeanne Ryan of Austin, Texas, Robert Wham of Bothell, Washington, and her grandchildren.

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Steve Fenberg  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Julie McCluskie  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES