



HOUSE MEMORIAL 17-1002

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Becker K. and Hooton, Arndt, Becker J., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

MEMORIALIZING FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD "RICH" GEBHARDT.

WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague Richard "Rich" Gebhardt, a past member of the Colorado House of Representatives, departed this life on February 13, 2017, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, Richard Glenn Gebhardt was born in Denver, Colorado, on May 18, 1931, and at the age of two-and-a-half was adopted by Glenn and Dora Gebhardt, both public school teachers; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt grew up in Denver and spent his summers traveling the western United States with his father, Glenn, who was a photographer; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from South High School, Representative Gebhardt enlisted in the United States Army at age 19 and served as a medic in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, During the last big drive of the war, Representative Gebhardt's battalion was cut off from the rest of his group and during the ensuing battle he was hit by shrapnel in the leg and abdomen. His battalion was overrun by the North Koreans and he and a group of soldiers were taken as prisoners; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt was rescued, and in July 1953 was honorably discharged as a Corporal and awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster, the CIB Medical Badge, and the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, When he returned to Colorado, Representative Gebhardt attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics in 1957 and a Masters of Public Administration in 1958, and during his time at school was elected to student body government; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1960s, Representative Gebhardt began pursuing his interest in politics when he worked on John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign, and pursued many congressional and legislative causes, including the 1960s Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt carried this quote from John F. Kennedy in his wallet: "War marks you forever. While you need to move to your future you cannot let go of what you had witnessed and what you had learned. One thing learned is that you are capable of personal courage when the need is thrust upon you. However, one singular crucial idea you grasp from the experience of war is that war is wrong and when you return home you must take the life of your country seriously which means that the rest of the life you have been given as a survivor means doing all you can to prevent another war."; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, Representative Gebhardt was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and served two terms as the first Democrat elected in Boulder County in 16 years; and

WHEREAS, During his time in the state legislature, he ran the first legislation to establish hospice care, though the legislation would not pass for another 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt was the Western Regional Campaign Chairman for Robert Kennedy's campaign for president, traveling with Robert Kennedy to the south during the Civil Rights Movement, and also served as a Colorado coordinator for Ted Kennedy's campaign for president; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt was the Democratic candidate for the United States House of Representatives Second Congressional District in 1970; and

WHEREAS, For 25 years, Representative Gebhardt served as Boulder County Public Trustee, serving under four Colorado governors, and he worked for Northwestern Mutual Life for 53 years; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt loved the outdoors, calling himself a naturalist, and loved spending time in the mountains at his cabin and near the ocean in Maui, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt was an avid sports fan. He especially loved basketball, and for many years he served as the official timekeeper for the University of Colorado men's basketball team; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gebhardt loved taking his grandkids for rides in his Jeep; was known for never missing a birthday, singing and playing the harmonica for each family member; and shared special conversations over breakfasts with his family, which will be sorely missed but fondly remembered; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly, pay tribute to the dedicated service of Representative Richard "Rich" Gebhardt and express our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by his death; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That, in the death of Richard Glenn Gebhardt, the people of the State of Colorado have lost a devoted public servant and an outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly, pay tribute to Richard Gebhardt for his years of dedicated public service and do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to Representative Gebhardt's daughter, Kathy Gebhardt.

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES