



SENATE MEMORIAL 16-001

BY SENATOR(S) Roberts, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Carroll, Cooke, Crowder, Donovan, Garcia, Grantham, Guzman, Heath, Hill, Hodge, Holbert, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Newell, Scheffel, Scott, Sonnenberg, Steadman, Tate, Todd, Ulibarri, Woods, Cadman.

MEMORIALIZING FORMER STATE SENATOR JAMES "JIM" ISGAR.

WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague James "Jim" Isgar, a past member of the Colorado General Assembly, departed this life on March 4, 2016, at the age of 64; and

WHEREAS, Senator Isgar was born May 5, 1951, in Durango, Colorado, to Anne Louise and Arthur Richard Isgar; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, Senator Isgar graduated high school and set off for the University of Colorado to study engineering, but soon returned to help with his family farm and completed a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Fort Lewis College; and

WHEREAS, Senator Isgar went on to become a Certified Public Accountant and studied taxation at Colorado State University before working for a Longmont accounting firm; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Senator Isgar was accepted to law school at the University of Denver, but did not attend because he said his parents "would sell the farm if I didn't come back and take it over"; and

WHEREAS, Senator Isgar had an extensive background in water issues before serving as a State Senator and served on a number of water boards, including the La Plata and Animas-La Plata conservancy districts,

the Southwestern Water Conservation District, and HH Ditch Co., where he served 25 years as president; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Governor Roy Romer appointed Senator Isgar to the Colorado Board of Agriculture, and Senator Isgar was later appointed to the governing boards for his alma mater Fort Lewis College, Colorado State University, and the University of Southern Colorado; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Senator Isgar was appointed to the State Senate to fill a vacancy left by former State Senator Jim Dyer, and he was re-elected to two more terms in the State Senate; and

WHEREAS, During his time as Senator, Senator Isgar served on the Senate Transportation, Finance, and Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committees, and he served on the joint Water Resources Review Committee, Transportation Legislation Review Committee, and the Legislative Audit Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Isgar also served on the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security in 2005 and the Senate Select Committee on Renewable Energy in 2007; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, Senator Isgar was appointed as the United States Department of Agriculture's director of Rural Development for Colorado by President Barack Obama, and he served as director for the next four years; and

WHEREAS, In the last few years, Senator Isgar returned to his first love of gardening, and it was not an unusual occurrence to see him at the local farmer's market selling vegetables and spending time with various people; and

WHEREAS, Senator Isgar was known for his attention to detail and for his influence over state water law and policy, and he was a strong champion of education; and

WHEREAS, Senator Isgar has been described as a "true Coloradan" and someone who was "innately good", and his granddaughter Abby has said of him that "it was as if he had a magnet in his chest that brought people closer to him"; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly, pay tribute to the dedicated service of Senator James "Jim" Isgar and express our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by his death; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That, in the death of James "Jim" Isgar, the people of the State of Colorado have lost a devoted public servant and an outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly, pay tribute to James Isgar 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 Senator Isgar's wife Brenda Isgar; his children Matt Isgar, Andy Isgar, Sarah Newton, Kate O'Brien, and Caleb Loos; and his mother Anne Isgar.

Bill L. Cadman
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE