

**Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M14-0824.01 Kurt Woock x4349

HM14-1005

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Singer,

House Committees

HOUSE MEMORIAL 14-1005

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JACK McCROSKEY.**

1 WHEREAS, Our respected former colleague Jack McCroskey, a
2 former member of the Colorado House of Representatives, departed this
3 life on January 8, 2014, at the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey was born on June 26,
5 1925, in Dallas, Texas, and graduated from W.H. Adamson High School
6 in Dallas; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey earned a bachelor's degree
8 in economics from Southern Methodist University, graduating in 1956,
9 and later completed a Ph.D. in economics from Indiana University; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey moved to Denver in 1966
11 with his wife, Bettye, to become a professor of economics and finance at
12 the University of Denver; and

13 WHEREAS, First elected in 1975, Representative McCroskey
14 served four terms in the House of Representatives; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, In the course of his legislative career, Representative
2 McCroskey lent his expertise to an array of issues as he served on
3 committees as varied as: Finance; Health, Environment, Welfare and
4 Institutions; Judiciary; State Affairs; Transportation and Energy; Air
5 Pollution; and Regional Transportation District (RTD) Oversight; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1982, along with Speaker Bev Bledsoe,
7 Representative McCroskey was part of a bipartisan group to reform and
8 simplify Colorado's property tax system, which reform is now part of
9 Colorado's constitution and statutes; and

10 WHEREAS, As a legislator, McCroskey brought to the table his
11 expertise as an economics professor, and he advocated for the particular
12 needs of urbanites in the property tax process, promoting fairness for
13 homeowners and for those residing in multi-family dwellings; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey introduced bills to
15 eliminate the sales tax on food, eliminate the income tax on savings
16 interest and dividends, and establish district-wide election of the Regional
17 Transportation District's board of directors, all measures which eventually
18 became law; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey had a wide-ranging
20 interest in legislation that centered on financial, transportation, and
21 equality issues, garnering broad bipartisan support as evidenced by the
22 many cosponsors from both parties on his bills; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey fought for the funding of
24 public libraries, the investigation of insurance costs, limitations on the
25 influence of lobbyists, and many other issues; and

26 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey believed in not only the
27 state government's capability to benefit Coloradans but also in the need
28 to periodically review the efficacy of state agencies, a process now known
29 as "sunset review"; and

30 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey played a significant role
31 in the development of the RTD that Coloradans continue to enjoy and rely
32 upon today; and

33 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey was at the forefront of the
34 movement to replace RTD's appointed board of directors with an elected

1 board; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey served as director of RTD
3 for 12 years, during which he helped create Denver's first light rail line;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey, who rode the bus to
6 work, advocated for equal access to public transportation, ensuring that
7 all buses were accessible to wheelchair riders, a position that was, at the
8 time, voluntary and largely without precedent; and

9 WHEREAS, The wisdom of Representative McCroskey's vision
10 spread, as other cities began to offer wheelchair-accessible public
11 transportation options, and eventually became a mainstream concept at
12 the national level with the passage of the "Americans with Disabilities
13 Act of 1990"; and

14 WHEREAS, Following Representative McCroskey's distinguished
15 legislative service, he remained active in local and state affairs as a senior
16 fellow with the Independence Institute, where one of his accomplishments
17 included the defeat of the continuation of the tourism tax and helping
18 disadvantaged students gain financial access to independent universities;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Although Representative McCroskey retired from
21 elected office, he continued to influence the course of events in Colorado
22 in ways that will have a long-lasting impact on future generations; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative McCroskey was preceded in death by
24 his wife Bettye and his son Byron and is survived by his daughter
25 Jacquelyn, son Thomas, and many grandchildren; now, therefore,

26 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth*
27 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

28 That, in the death of Representative Jack McCroskey, the people
29 of the state of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and
30 outstanding citizen, and that we, the members of the House of
31 Representatives, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the
32 members of his family and pay tribute to a man who served his state well
33 and faithfully.

1 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Memorial be sent to
2 Representative Jack McCroskey's children.