

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

LLS NO. M23-0669.01 Shannon Wheeler x4340

**SJM23-001**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23-001**

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR DOTTIE**  
102 **WHAM.**

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

3 WHEREAS, Dottie was born in Centralia, Illinois on January 5,  
4 1925; and

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

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

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

HOUSE  
Final Reading  
January 24, 2023

SENATE  
Final Reading  
January 23, 2023

1           WHEREAS, Bob and Dottie moved from Illinois to Montrose,  
2 Colorado in 1950, and then moved to Denver in 1953; and

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

6           WHEREAS, Dottie served in the Colorado House of  
7 Representatives from 1983 to 1986, and in the Colorado Senate from  
8 1986 to 2000; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31           WHEREAS, Dottie Wham was recognized by the Hon. Scott

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

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

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

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

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

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