

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

INTRODUCED

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HM23-1001

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lynch and Bradfield,

House Committees

HOUSE MEMORIAL 23-1001

101 **MEMORIALIZING REPRESENTATIVE HUGH MCKEAN.**

1 WHEREAS, Our beloved colleague, Hugh Monroe McKean,
2 leader of the Republican caucus and representative of Loveland, departed
3 this life on October 30, 2022, at the age of 55; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 27,
5 1967, he spent his boyhood on a small farm in northern Missouri, where,
6 he said, he first learned "how to fix things"; and

7 WHEREAS, Eventually, Leader McKean made his way to
8 Colorado, where he graduated from Colorado State University in 1996;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, A passionate patriot, in the aftermath of the
11 September 11 attacks, he joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary as a reservist;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Self-described as a "farm boy with a servant's heart",
14 Leader McKean worked as an independent residential contractor across
15 Northern Colorado and was active in local government; he built homes

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.

1 and bridges between people, forged authentic and genuine connections,
2 and always listened and learned; and

3 WHEREAS, Leader McKean served his friends, his neighbors, and
4 his community on a charter school board and a school district master
5 planning board and then, beginning in 2009, on the Loveland City
6 Council for two terms, a role that showed his commitment to finding
7 durable solutions to local and regional problems; and

8 WHEREAS, Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in
9 2016 to represent House District 51, Leader McKean wrote in his
10 newsletter, "Love Where I Live", that he was "blessed ... to help shepherd
11 our wonderful state toward greener pastures and happier days"; and

12 WHEREAS, Elected leader of the Colorado House Republican
13 Caucus in 2020, Leader McKean was known not only for his dedication
14 to the people he served, but also for his rowdy sense of humor, boundless
15 energy, and infectious laughter, which he used to break down barriers and
16 solve problems; and

17 WHEREAS, Leader McKean could argue in the well against a
18 member's bill for hours, then offer them the warmest of hugs and link
19 arms on the way to a committee meeting; he could be found debating
20 policy with colleagues or chatting with children on the floor, giving them
21 spirited tours of the Capitol and toys to play with in his office; and

22 WHEREAS, Raised as a Quaker, Leader McKean's personal
23 society of friends was always expanding; whether you were on the
24 custodial staff in the Capitol building or a member of Congress, Leader
25 McKean saw you and he heard you, as a potential collaborator and as a
26 friend; and

27 WHEREAS, More than 50 of the bills Leader McKean sponsored
28 were signed by the Governor, including bills to support community-based
29 public safety partnerships, promote behavioral health crisis services to
30 school-age students, assist land developers in providing affordable
31 housing, utilize pumped hydroelectricity generation to meet Colorado's
32 renewable energy standard, and offer hunter education courses to seventh
33 grade students; and

34 WHEREAS, Honored by a wide variety of organizations for his
35 achievements, Leader McKean received the Faith, Family, and Freedom

1 Award from the Centennial Institute; he was named 2021's Legislator of
2 the Year by the Colorado BioScience Association and one of 2023's
3 Legislators of the Year by the Colorado Chamber of Commerce; he was
4 given the "Champion of Main Street Award" by the Independent
5 Community Bankers of Colorado; and he won the Colorado House of
6 Representatives' chili contest two years in a row; and

7 WHEREAS, Leader McKean spoke about Coloradans not in the
8 abstract, but as real, living people with jobs, loves, and real-life successes
9 and problems. As he said in a speech to the chamber in January 2021,
10 "[I]n the end, the letters by our names are less important than the ideas we
11 have. The people of Colorado just want to know that we care about them,
12 that their voices are heard, and that we are trying our best to make their
13 lives better and give them opportunities to thrive"; and

14 WHEREAS, As Leader McKean laid in state at the Colorado State
15 Capitol, surrounded by his family and fellow lawmakers, by the staff and
16 stakeholders who worked with him and for him, and by all others who
17 mourned him, Weld County Commissioner Scott James reminded us to
18 "Live like Hugh; Laugh like Hugh; Serve like Hugh; [and] Love like
19 Hugh"; now, therefore,

20 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
21 *Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

22 (1) That, in the death of Hugh Monroe McKean, the people of the
23 State of Colorado have lost a devoted public servant, outstanding citizen,
24 and invaluable friend and colleague who will be remembered for his
25 legacy of kindness and leadership;

26 (2) That we, the members of the Colorado House of
27 Representatives, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the
28 members of his family; and

29 (3) That we pay tribute to a man who served his state well and
30 faithfully; may the memory of his laughter in the chamber and throughout
31 the hallways, committee rooms, and even as far as the cafeteria continue
32 to bless this building that he loved.

33 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be sent to
34 Leader McKean's children, Hanna and Aiden McKean; his partner, Amy

1 Parks, and her children, Keira, Keenan, and Kolten; his mother, Janet
2 McKean; his sister, Summer McKean-Kershner; and his brother, Andrew
3 McKean.