

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M23-0757.01 Shannon Wheeler x4340

HM23-1002

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McLachlan and deGruy Kennedy,

House Committees

HOUSE MEMORIAL 23-1002

101 **MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE MIKE McLACHLAN.**

1 WHEREAS, Michael "Mike" Edward McLachlan departed this life
2 after a long illness on June 23, 2021; and

3 WHEREAS, Mike was born on April 18, 1946, in Dover,
4 Delaware; and

5 WHEREAS, Mike earned his bachelor's degree from Southern
6 Colorado State University and his law degree from the University of
7 Arizona; and

8 WHEREAS, Mike's lifelong dedication to serving his community
9 began when he joined the United States Marine Corps in 1965 and served
10 in the Vietnam War before he was honorably discharged in 1967; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1999, former Attorney General Ken Salazar
12 appointed Mike as the Colorado Solicitor General; and

13 WHEREAS, Mike helped champion the nation's laws regarding
14 protections for people visiting abortion clinics when he defended a

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 "buffer" law before the United States Supreme Court in the 2000 case *Hill*
2 *vs. Colorado*. This law imposes an 8-foot "bubble" around medical
3 workers and patients who step within 100 feet of a clinic entrance and is
4 still in effect today; and

5 WHEREAS, From 2012 through 2014, Mike served as
6 Representative for House District 59, during which he served on several
7 committees, including the Agriculture, Judiciary, and Interim Wildfire
8 Review Committees; and

9 WHEREAS, Mike sponsored 22 bills in the years he served as
10 Representative, 20 of which were signed into law, and survived a 2013
11 recall attempt by gun rights advocates who opposed his stance on gun
12 safety legislation; and

13 WHEREAS, Mike sponsored several widely-supported and
14 successful bills, one of which allowed farmers and ranchers a state tax
15 credit of up to \$5,000 for food they donate to hunger relief organizations,
16 and another that allowed charter schools to hire armed security guards
17 amid battles over gun control in Colorado; and

18 WHEREAS, Mike was also a former president of the Durango
19 Rotary Club, served on the Southern Ute Tribe Environmental
20 Commission, and served as the chairman of the Judicial Performance
21 Commission for the 6th Judicial District and as the chairman of the
22 Supreme Court Grievance Committee; and

23 WHEREAS, Mike left the state legislature and returned to his
24 private law practice after he was unseated by Republican J. Paul Brown
25 in the 2014 mid-term elections. Brown was later defeated by Mike's own
26 wife, Barbara McLachlan, in the 2016 election, and she continues to hold
27 the seat for House District 59; and

28 WHEREAS, Mike was a public servant at heart and inspired many
29 to connect with and advocate for others. Governor Jared Polis said of
30 Mike in 2021, "Mike always stood up for what was right, even if that was
31 the hard thing to do. His military service, professional work and extensive
32 commitment to volunteer service in his Southwest Colorado community
33 made our state better, and he will be dearly missed. My heart goes out to
34 Barbara, his children Brian and Kate, and his entire family."; and

35 WHEREAS, Mike McLachlan was a devoted father, husband,

1 friend, and advocate who will be remembered for his hard work,
2 dedication, and accomplishments; now, therefore,

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

5 That we, the members of the Colorado House of Representatives,
6 pay tribute to Mike's long legacy of service and hereby extend our deep
7 and heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family and pay tribute to a
8 man who served his state well and faithfully.

9 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be sent to
10 Barbara McLachlan and Barbara and Mike's children, Brian and Kate
11 McLachlan.