



## SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 24-001

BY SENATOR(S) Bridges, Baisley, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Liston, Lundeen, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Sullivan, Van Winkle, Will, Winter F., Zenzinger, Fenberg;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Froelich, Amabile, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, Epps, Frizell, Garcia, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Lynch, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Marvin, Mauro, McCormick, McLachlan, Parenti, Ricks, Rutinel, Sirota, Snyder, Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Vigil, Weinberg, Weissman, Willford, Woodrow, Young, McCluskie.

### MEMORIALIZING SENATOR MARTHA EZZARD.

WHEREAS, The tributaries of Martha McElveen Ezzard's life fed a broad landscape of purposes, including politics, journalism, and law, as well as her commitments to her family, her writing, and her winery; and

WHEREAS, Martha was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, by parents who taught her to stay true to her values and speak up in challenging situations. She earned her BA in journalism at the University of Georgia and her MA in journalism at the University of Missouri. She and her husband, John, a physician, moved to the Denver area in 1968, where they raised their three children; and

WHEREAS, Martha became press aide to Colorado Governor John Love in 1972 and continued in this role to Governor John Vanderhoof after Love was appointed energy czar under President Nixon; and

WHEREAS, Martha narrowly lost a primary for a Colorado Senate seat in 1976 but persevered and was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1978; and

WHEREAS, She was subsequently elected to the Colorado Senate in 1980, becoming only the thirteenth woman elected to the body since its creation in 1876; and

WHEREAS, At the Women Who Govern panel in September 1984, Martha recalled her first day as a representative, when she and another female House colleague were asked, "Which one of you ladies is Representative McElderry's secretary?" to which she wryly retorted, "One really good secretary is probably more productive than ten average state legislators"; and

WHEREAS, During Martha's years in the Colorado House and Senate, she worked diligently on issues related to water conservation, hazardous waste control, equal rights, and sunshine legislation; and

WHEREAS, While serving in the Colorado Senate, Martha chaired what was at the time called the Health and Environment Committee, was elected chair of the GOP caucus, and earned her JD from the University of Denver College of Law; and

WHEREAS, She was acknowledged with the 1988 Award for Legislative Excellence from the Colorado Public Health Association; and

WHEREAS, She was one of the seven women who launched the Women's Foundation of Colorado in response to a shared dream to strategically invest in the education and future of young women, particularly those from lower-income households; and

WHEREAS, Not to be belied by her soft Southern accent, Martha was a force to be reckoned with-a maverick, an independent-minded go-getter, a fighter for justice, and a woman determined to leave the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, After serving seven years in the Colorado Senate, feeling that she was more aligned with centrist philosophies, Martha resigned her seat and changed parties. In 1988, she was defeated in the general election for Colorado's Sixth Congressional District; and

WHEREAS, Following her career in Colorado politics and law,

Martha moved back to her native Georgia, where she joined the editorial board of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. For ten years, she wrote a regular political column and a weekly column; and

WHEREAS, Martha was most proud of her work on several special projects, including her 1995 series on hiking 80 miles of the Appalachian Trail as one of the journalists from five newspapers who combined efforts to hike the trail in its entirety; her 2001 series on the need for indigent defense reform in Georgia; and her 1999 series, "The Trees of Our Lives", which focused on saving special old trees in the Atlanta area and for which she spent a night sleeping over 100 feet high up in a 200-foot-tall tulip poplar tree; and

WHEREAS, The Society of Professional Journalists recognized Martha with the 2002 Green Eyeshade Award in Editorial Writing for the series "When Justice is a Crime". She also received the 25th Annual Pioneer Black Journalist Award from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists and the Wilderness Society's Aldo Leopold Award for her environmental writing; and

WHEREAS, Martha and her husband, John, rusticated to his family's fifth-generation farm near Tiger, Georgia, on which John grew up. The pair worked tirelessly to create Tiger Mountain Vineyards, whose fine wines won more than 250 awards and helped put Georgia wines on the map; and

WHEREAS, Martha went on to write a book entitled *The Second Bud*, narrating the story of how she and John created a new second life and profession in their 60s by saving John's family farm and starting a winery. Martha won the Georgia Author of the Year Award for this book, which chronicles the colorful characters of old-time Appalachia with the new visions of a flourishing modern farm winery; and

WHEREAS, Martha's family remembers her as bigger than life; a woman ahead of her time; strong-willed; and committed to the environment, to justice, to her family, and the communities in which she lived; now, therefore,

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

(1) That, in the death of Martha McElveen Ezzard, the people of the State of Colorado have lost a devoted public servant, an outstanding citizen, and an invaluable voice for equal rights;

(2) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family; and

(3) That we pay tribute to a dedicated, strong-willed, independent-minded woman who strove to leave the world better than she found it.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent to Senator Ezzard's children: Shelly Ezzard Smith; Lisa Annette Ezzard; John Arrendale Ezzard, Jr.; grandchildren: Georgia Camille O'Farrell; Samuel Davant Smith; Sydney Blair Smith; Sean MacRae Smith; Johna

deWinter Ezzard; Trimble James Ezzard; and nieces: Martha Katherine Kelly Johnson; Linda Caroline Kelly Ratcliff; and Stacey Lynne Kelly White.

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Steve Fenberg  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Julie McCluskie  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES