

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

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. M12-0790.01 John Kilgour x4338

**HM12-1001**

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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 12-1001**

101     **MEMORIALIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE GERALD H. "JERRY"**  
102             **KOPEL.**

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1             WHEREAS, Our former respected colleague, Gerald H. "Jerry"  
2     Kopel, a past member of the Colorado House of Representatives, departed  
3     this life on January 21, 2012, at the age of 83; and

4             WHEREAS, Representative Kopel was born in Baltimore,  
5     Maryland, on June 16, 1928; and

6             WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Representative  
7     Kopel joined the United States Army and served in Panama with the  
8     Army Corps of Engineers before receiving an honorable discharge; and

9             WHEREAS, After leaving the Army, Representative Kopel  
10    attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he studied  
11    journalism and edited the university's *Silver and Gold* newspaper and also  
12    met his future wife Dolores; and

13            WHEREAS, After college, Representative Kopel began his career  
14    in the newspaper industry, starting out with the *Walsenburg*

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     *World-Independent* and later moving to the *Rocky Mountain News*; and

2             WHEREAS, After working in journalism, Representative Kopel  
3     earned a law degree from the University of Denver, where he graduated  
4     first in his class, and started a law firm, Kopel and Kopel, with his wife  
5     Dolores; and

6             WHEREAS, Representative Kopel was elected to his first term in  
7     the Colorado House of Representatives in 1964, and he went on to serve  
8     a total of 22 years in the House spanning four decades before retiring  
9     from legislative service in 1992; and

10            WHEREAS, While a legislator, Representative Kopel served as  
11     House Assistant Minority Leader from 1983 to 1988; chaired the House  
12     Judiciary Committee from 1975 to 1976; served as vice-chair of the  
13     House Services Committee from 1965 to 1966; served for two years as a  
14     member of the Legislative Audit Committee, four years on the Legislative  
15     Council, and four years on the Committee on Legal Services, including  
16     one year as vice-chair; and was also a member of several other standing,  
17     joint, and interim committees; and

18            WHEREAS, Representative Kopel was an advocate for legislation  
19     addressing civil rights, housing policy, curbing predatory lending  
20     practices, and the sunset review of state regulatory agencies, and he also  
21     helped make the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a state holiday  
22     in Colorado; and

23            WHEREAS, While serving in the General Assembly,  
24     Representative Kopel earned a reputation as a master of legislative rules  
25     and procedures and as a hard-working public servant dedicated to crafting  
26     accurate and precise legislation; and

27            WHEREAS, As a legislator, Representative Kopel was a mentor  
28     to other members of the General Assembly, and even after his retirement  
29     he continued his service to the General Assembly as a House Advisor  
30     from 1993 to 1994, as an advisor to the House Democratic Caucus from  
31     1995 to 2000, and as an advisor to the Senate Democratic Leadership  
32     from 2001 to 2005; and

33            WHEREAS, After leaving the General Assembly, Representative  
34     Kopel covered the legislature as a journalist and wrote over 700 articles  
35     for *The Colorado Statesman*, *The Pueblo Chieftain*, and other

1 publications, and he received seven public-service awards from the  
2 Colorado Press Association; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Kopel has been remembered as "Mr.  
4 Colorado legislature" by former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb and as  
5 "a brilliant lawyer who cared deeply about this state" by former Governor  
6 Richard Lamm; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Kopel was a loving grandfather, and  
8 his grandchildren Kathleen Kopel, Margaret Kopel, and Andrew Kopel  
9 were the delight of his retirement years; and

10 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we, the members of the House of  
11 Representatives of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly, pay tribute to the  
12 dedicated service of Representative Gerald H. "Jerry" Kopel, and express  
13 our deep regret and sorrow occasioned by his death; now, therefore,

14 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth*  
15 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

16 That, in the death of Gerald H. "Jerry" Kopel, the people of the  
17 state of Colorado have lost a dedicated public servant and outstanding  
18 citizen, and that we, the members of the House of Representatives of the  
19 Sixty-eighth General Assembly, do hereby extend our deep and heartfelt  
20 sympathy to the members of his family and pay tribute to a man who  
21 served his state well and faithfully.

22 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be sent to  
23 Representative Kopel's wife Dolores Kopel of Denver, son David Kopel  
24 of Boulder, and grandchildren Kathleen Kopel, Margaret Kopel, and  
25 Andrew Kopel of Boulder.