

Second Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R02-0192.01 Patty Amundson

HJR02-1059

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-1059

101 CONCERNING HONORING FORMER GOVERNOR OF COLORADO RALPH L.
102 CARR.

1 WHEREAS, Ralph L. Carr was born in Rosita, Colorado, near
2 present-day Pueblo on December 11, 1887, the son of Scotch-Irish miner
3 William Frank Carr and Mattie Kimberlin Carr; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1894, Carr moved to Cripple Creek, then a mining
5 town, and graduated from Cripple Creek High School in 1905; and

6 WHEREAS, To finance his education, both in high school and
7 college, Carr undertook numerous jobs typical of the small town frontier
8 life of which he was a part, working as a grocery clerk, telegraph
9 messenger, and laundry wagon driver, breaking up and carrying ore
10 samples for assay, and serving as a correspondent for several newspapers
11 and press associations; and

12 WHEREAS, Carr graduated from the University of Colorado,
13 earning a bachelor of arts degree in 1910 and a bachelor of law degree in
14 1912; and

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 WHEREAS, After his marriage to Gretchen R. Fowler and a brief
2 residence in Victor and Trinidad, Carr moved in 1917 to the town of
3 Antonito where he served as the Conejos county attorney for five years;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 1927, Carr was appointed the Assistant Attorney
6 General and, in 1929, the United States District Attorney for Colorado;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Early in his career, Carr specialized in water law,
9 becoming one of the foremost authorities on the subject in the western
10 states and a strong advocate of the right of the states to administer and
11 distribute the flow of western rivers; and

12 WHEREAS, Carr played a key role in many of the interstate water
13 compacts that were established in the 1920s and 1930s and acted as the
14 legal advisor to the Colorado Interstate River Commissioner on the Rio
15 Grande Compact; and

16 WHEREAS, At the urging of his friends, Carr entered the
17 gubernatorial race on the eve of the Republican State Convention in 1938
18 and, after a vigorous campaign arguing the need for a new state fiscal
19 program, he won the election and became the first Republican governor
20 in twelve years; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1940, Carr was reelected as governor of Colorado
22 by an overwhelming margin; and

23 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl
24 Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the widescale fear and resentment of
25 people of Japanese descent and demands for their evacuation, Carr
26 supported their voluntary relocation in Colorado; and

27 WHEREAS, After President Franklin D. Roosevelt established
28 certain military zones within the country and ordered the evacuation of
29 people of Japanese descent from those zones, Carr supported the
30 President's action as a precaution against fifth column activities on the
31 west coast, but steadfastly refused to intern the Japanese in concentration
32 camps, a measure which had the support of many leading businessmen
33 and civic leaders in Colorado, including a federal district court judge; and

34 WHEREAS, Alone among the western governors, Carr supported
35 the policy of accepting people of Japanese descent for relocation in
36 Colorado without demanding that they be placed under military guard and
37 without other infringements of their political rights; and

38 WHEREAS, After approximately 3,000 people of Japanese
39 descent had been relocated to Camp Amache in the Arkansas valley and
40 a mob from a nearby town threatened the settlement, Carr took a plane to
41 the site and succeeded in averting the violence by telling the assembled
42 people: "If you harm them, you must harm me. I was brought up in a
43 small town where I knew the shame and dishonor of race hatred. I grew
44 to despise it because it threatened the happiness of you and you and you";
45 and

1 WHEREAS, Although Carr's stand on the issue of relocation had
2 prompted cries for his impeachment, in 1942 he chose to run for a seat in
3 the United States Senate against the incumbent in the office, Edwin C.
4 Johnson; and

5 WHEREAS, After a tumultuous campaign, Carr lost by less than
6 4,000 votes, one of the closest races in Colorado's history; and

7 WHEREAS, Carr then returned to the practice of law and served
8 as a regent of the University of Colorado and, in 1948, married Eleanor
9 Fairall How; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1951, despite an infection in his foot which
11 eventually cost him his life, Carr again acceded to the wishes of his party
12 and announced his intention to run for governor; and

13 WHEREAS, Two days after defeating Ray H. Brannaman in the
14 primary election, Carr suddenly died, after penning a humorous letter to
15 his supporters telling them "not to look for a substitute for me while I'm
16 above the sod"; now, therefore,

17 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third*
18 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*
19 *herein:*

20 That Ralph L. Carr, a man who did not readily seek to advance his
21 own political ambitions, but once committed to an office or political
22 contest did not spare himself from any of the rigors that it demanded, who
23 demonstrated faithfulness to constitutional principals and an unwavering
24 compassion for others at great political cost to himself, and who devoted
25 much of his life to the public interest and in services to Colorado, is
26 hereby honored by the General Assembly of the state of Colorado.

27 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be
28 transmitted to the Carr Family.