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June 2015

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**TIME TO PAUSE AND HONOR SOME WHO PROVIDED
EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT FOR SENIOR ISSUES**

Two years ago the Senior Lobby determined that there was insufficient recognition for extraordinary persons who are providing groundbreaking leadership for an aging population.

The solution was the establishment of the “Serving Our Seniors” award.

This year we are honoring four legislators who provided leadership during the 2015 legislative session. It is a bi-partisan group with two Republicans and two Democrats. They recognize that solutions for the aging population impact all who need services and assistance and we can provide the best solutions by working in harmony.

The four are:

Senator Larry Crowder — District 35

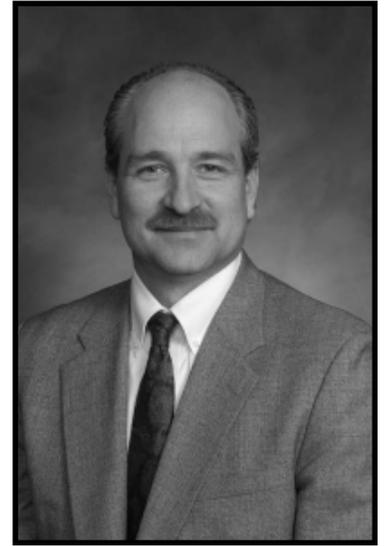
Colorado State Senator representing 16 counties in southern and southeastern part of the state. Age 66, married 43 years, wife Cheri, with 2 grown sons, 4 grandchildren. 5th generation Coloradan originally from Manzanola and now resides on family farm/ranch in Alamosa. Past businessman in construction and telephone contractor, veteran-Army 1968-1971, W/ service in Viet Nam. Currently serving as Vice-Chair Health and Human Services and member of Local Government Committees. 3rd year of 1st term in Senate. Has passion for district as well as veteran, older population, the very young, health care and the people of Colorado.



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Representative Steve Lebsock — District 34

Steve is a Colorado native, born in Sterling. He graduated from Westminster High School and is also a graduate of Metropolitan State College of Denver. As a legislator, he has earned the "2014 Colorado Nonprofit Legislator of the Year Award" and the United Veterans Committee of Colorado "2015 Distinguished Legislator Award". He has worked for the U.S. Department of Interior, as a Contract Specialist. Steve served in the United States Marine Corps from 1988 to 1991. And, Steve was a Councilmember in Thornton, Colorado from 2003 to 2011. From 2007 to 2009 Steve served his city as Mayor



Pro-Tem

Representative Dianne Primavera — District 33

Dianne Primavera spent her career as a vocational rehabilitation counselor and has worked for various state departments. Primavera was also the conference director for the White House Conference on Aging, working with the Division of Aging and Adult Services in the Colorado Department of Human Services. Primavera has fought and won battles with cancer four times and has been cancer free for many years now. Dianne is currently serving her final term in the state legislature. She is a Colorado native and has a Master's Degree from the University of Northern Colorado.



Representative Kit Roupé — District 17

State Representative Catherine "Kit" Roupé came to Colorado in the 1970s as a soldier at Fort Carson. She has two children and four grandchildren, who live in Missouri and Washington state. In addition to being a state legislator, Representative Roupé has a small pet-sitting business in Colorado Springs. Representative Roupé has two business degrees and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She comes from a large family. Her parents would be in their 100s if they were alive today, and she has cousins in their 60s and 70s. She has served on the Citizens Advisory committees for the Pikes Peak Area Council of Government and the Rural Transportation Authority. She is familiar with transportation budgeting, the Area Agency on Aging and the nonprofits that support our senior community. Within her district she has several senior homes and senior communities. As a new



legislator in her first session, she was a Prime Co-Sponsor of HB 15-1100 and a co-sponsor on the strategic plan for seniors. It is her belief that seniors have served and been tax-paying citizens all their lives and it is irresponsible to balance the budget on the backs of seniors.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS: as reported when recognized.

2013 — Jefferson County has been a leader in establishing and implementing programs that enhance the quality of life for the aging population. These two recipients are instrumental in making Jefferson County the role model for the state.

LYNN JOHNSON: Currently serves as the Executive Director of Jefferson County Human Services. She is on the Executive Committee for the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators.

Susan Franklin: She has worked in the human services field for over 28 years; most recently with Jefferson County for 18 years. She has an expertise in bringing together many different shareholders to benefit the community.

2014 — There was landmark legislation passed in 2014

Scott W. Storey: Scott Storey served as District Attorney of Jefferson and Gilpin counties for two four-year terms, from 2005-2012. He has returned to prosecution as a Senior Chief Deputy District Attorney in the First Judicial District Attorney's Office, supervising the Elder Abuse Unit.

Evie Hudak: Evie Hudak was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 2008 and re-elected in 2012, but she resigned in November 2013 to prevent a potential recall election. Before serving in the State Senate, she spent 8 years as an elected member of the Colorado State Board of Education.



Representative
Roupé

In the April newsletter the name of these two representatives was inadvertently cut off when the newsletter was printed. The names were not cut off of the digital copy.

Both were speaking at the Senior Day at the Capitol afternoon session.



Representative
Conti

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SUMMER SESSION

The summer/fall season is a time when legislation is being planned and researched for the coming year. The legislative committee meetings during this period are very important. We would encourage every interested party to participate in the Monday morning meetings. They are scheduled every other week (skipping a week to avoid labor day). You can see the schedule on the organization's web page.

Some areas where legislation was not successful this last session are:

Elder Abuse (HB15-1018). Current law lists a number of persons who are required to report to law enforcement the abuse or exploitation of a person 70 years of age or older. This bill would have added social workers, marriage and family therapists, licensed professional counselors, psychotherapists, addiction counselors, victim advocates, and specialized transit operators to the list of professionals required to report.

Funding for Services (HB15-1100). Currently, there are two ways the General Assembly funds the community services for older adults that are administered by the state's 16 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA): the General Fund, which is essentially one-time funding requested by the governor or appropriated by the General Assembly in the budget and the Older Coloradans Fund (OCF), which automatically appropriates the money annually by statute. The OCF was created in 2002 and grew to \$10 million in 2013. Over the same period, the General Fund amount fluctuated but was at \$3 million in 2013. Although the General Assembly approved increases in 2014 and 2015, the funding has been exclusively one-time General Fund, increasing that amount to \$11 million. This bill would have provided for the increase in this year's budget to be allocated to the OCF.

The Senior Lobby considers these AAA services so important and basic that this funding should be provided in statute, avoiding the one-time funding in the budget.

Affordable Housing. Even though this has been considered a significant problem – even a crisis – for several years, there is still no meaningful or comprehensive plan or strategy to deal with the issue. While the General Assembly considered several bills (see below), none passed. The Senior Lobby considers this one of the most important issues facing older adults in Colorado and will continue to work with legislators to find solutions.

- **Construction Defects (SB15-177).** This bill would have addressed concerns of the proponents that current law results in too high of a liability risk in the construction of condominiums, resulting in developers being unable to build affordable units. Opponents of the bill were concerned it would have weakened homeowners' rights to repair defects.
- **Mobile Home Communities (SB 15-95).** This bill was intended to provide mobile home owners with more options to remain in their homes
- **Modifications to Low-income Housing Tax Credit (HB 15-1383).** This bill would have extended from the current 2 years to 5 years the period during which the Colorado housing and finance authority may allocate low-income housing tax credits; and the existing Colorado low-income housing credit:
- **Funding Affordable Housing (HB 15-1384).** This bill would have provided funding of nearly \$100 million over the next five years for the Affordable Housing Assistance Fund for the purposes of supporting new or existing programs that provide rental assistance and construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of either rental housing or owner-occupied housing.

SB 271. The Senior Lobby opposed this bill because of concerns deregulation of telecommunications would adversely affect Colorado residents, especially seniors, who still have landlines. In the event of an emergency, these people may not receive 911 warnings in a timely manner. The Senior Lobby also is concerned deregulation has left consumers, particularly in difficult-to-reach rural areas, vulnerable. (Not included in scorecard.)

Other areas of interest:

- **Strategic Planning Group (HB15-1033)** — Considered key to planning for the increase in the aging population
- **Community Living Advisory Group (CLAG)** – The Joint Budget Committee appropriated funds for the CLAG to meet over the next year to develop strategies for implementing the recommendations in its 2014 final report relating to both disability and aging programs and services.
- **Community Living Advisory for HCPF** — Forming a coalition of organizations and groups who are actively involved in senior issues.

Deeds, Not Rank, Make A Person Great

One day in ancient times, a king who admired selfless acts had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock.

Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the big stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. On approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.



As the peasant bent to pick up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The king became wiser that day, recognizing that rank does not make a person great, but that deeds do.

The peasant became wiser, too, learning that those who take obstacles head-on rather than taking the easy way out, often find rewards that others don't.

It's Never Too Late (or Early) to begin Talking about Senior Care Options

Trying to discuss various senior care options with an elderly loved one may seem like a complicated process. After all, if the elderly individual is still able to manage his or her own care well enough, he or she may be more resistant to even the prospect of discussing various options.

In truth, it's a good idea to sit down and discuss various senior care options even when the elderly individual is in good health, has good balance, and is lucid throughout the day and even during the overnight hours. Why is this such a good idea?

Family members should have some notion about their elderly loved one's wishes, whether they would prefer to remain at home and 'age in place' or look into other options as well. The way to approach the topic can lead to more open-mindedness or even shutting the door before being able to even have a serious and honest discussion about it.



How to not approach the topic.

Trying to tell someone he is no longer capable of taking care of himself is not the best way to approach things. Instead, begin the conversation by asking him if there are things he wishes he can still do, if he only had more support around the house.

If there are any concerns family members have with regard to safety, they should be brought up as well. This doesn't mean the senior is going to be readily open to the idea of relying on a professional home care aide or some other senior home services, but bringing up the topic and discussing it openly can at least provide them some valuable information they may need to help make a decision in the future.

Keep something important in mind.

When worried about an aging parent, grandparent, or other loved one, it's easy to get caught up in one's own desire to ensure safety and security for that individual. Many family members end up determining the course of care somebody receives without ever discussing it openly with them.

Keep in mind that the elderly individual has every right to determine the course of their care, whether they rely on professional senior home services, move to an assisted living community, or refuse every option put forth to them. It can certainly be frustrating, but when people provide valuable information and insight and they see that, with the right level support, there are many activities they could still enjoy, they eventually tend to come around and realize the benefits of various types of senior care. Discuss the prospect as soon as possible so that you and anyone else in the family are aware of your elderly loved one's wishes, even if there comes a time when they can no longer express those on their own.

If you or a loved one are considering hiring senior care services in the Denver Metro Area, please contact Visiting Angels at 303-736-6688 or visit us at www.VisitingAngels.com/MetroDenver.



Save the Date
COLORADO SENIOR LOBBY
ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday August 22, 2015: 9 AM to Noon

Continental Breakfast and Socializing from 8 until 9 AM

Location

Wind Crest

Address: 3235 Mill Vista Road, Highlands Ranch, 80129

From the intersection of Santa Fe and County Line Road go east to the first stop light (Erickson Blvd.).

Go south and continue to the guard house

The guard at the gate will give specific instructions.

1-800-204-9893 303-798-3100

We will be honoring 4 legislators

Senator Crowder, Representative Lebsock

Representative Primavera, Representative Roupé

Representatives Lebsock, Primavera and Roupé will participate in a panel discussion for legislation affecting the aging population.

Senator Crowder has another commitment that prevents him from attending.

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*The ultimate folly is to think that
something crucial to your welfare is being taken
care of for you.*
—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

“Healthy citizens are the
greatest asset any
country can have.”
— Winston Churchill

Go Green:

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or coworker.

Colorado Senior Lobby — Nonprofit, non-partisan, volunteer organization

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Organizations: Attach three names and contact information

Additional contribution to support our vision for seniors' quality of life \$ _____

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