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## **Former Arapahoe County Commissioner John Nicholl passes away at 78** *Memorial services will be held Oct. 11 for official who served County for 24 years*

**Littleton, Colo.** – Former Arapahoe County Commissioner John J. Nicholl, who served 24 years as commissioner, passed away Oct. 4 at age 78.

A memorial service will be held at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 11 at South Fellowship Church, 6560 S. Broadway Road, Littleton, 80121. The service is open to the public and anyone who would like to celebrate Nicholl's life is welcome to attend.

As a lifelong resident of Englewood, Nicholl served as commissioner representing District 1 from 1965 to 1981, and again from 1989 to 1997. When first elected at age 31, he was the youngest commissioner in the state. He also was sworn in two weeks early following the resignation of Commissioner Ed Scott, making Nicholl the longest-serving commissioner in Colorado history with six terms and two weeks. For most of his tenure, the Board of County Commissioners was comprised of three members without term limits, prior to its increase to five members in 1996.

Nicholl is remembered as a dedicated public servant whose strong commitment to public-private partnerships helped to change the face and future of Arapahoe County. He championed the development of Arapahoe County Airport in 1968, now Centennial Airport, to support business growth in the region. In the 1970s, he supported the construction of C-470 and helped form the Urban Drainage Control District to address water issues in the metro area. Nicholl was active in the acquisition of land and the construction of the Arapahoe County Administration Building on South Prince Street in Littleton, which was completed in 1977.

One of Nicholl's most notable accomplishments as commissioner came on June 16, 1965, just six months into his first term, when the Denver metro area suffered the devastating flooding of the South Platte River. Nicholl's background in surveying and engineering made him a strong fit to oversee the road and bridges department and address the repair of infrastructure in the County.

Nicholl was a registered land surveyor and operated Arapahoe Surveys, and he also served as manager of the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds in the 1980s. He is survived by his wife Ida May, his children, John Jr., David and Jami, and numerous relatives and friends. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the John Nicholl Memorial Fund in care of Drinkwine Family Mortuary, 999 West Littleton Blvd. Littleton, 80120.

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Please click the link to download photos: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/Nicholl>

**Nicholl\_1968.jpeg:** Commissioner John J. Nicholl in 1968.

**Nicholl\_Admin.jpeg:** Commissioner John J. Nicholl, second to the right, joined his fellow elected officials at the groundbreaking for the Arapahoe County Administration Building in Littleton.

**Nicholl\_Airport.jpeg:** Commissioner John J. Nicholl, center, joined his fellow elected officials to cut the ribbon at the opening of the Arapahoe County Airport, now Centennial Airport, in 1968.