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Media Note: Photos of Marie Mackenzie are available on the County's ftp server by clicking on the following link:
<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/pub/cm/Commissioner%20Marie%20Mackenzie/>

Former Arapahoe County Commissioner passes away

Memorial services will be held Nov. 29-30 for Marie Mackenzie who tirelessly served Arapahoe County from 1997 - 2005

Littleton, Colo.--- Former Arapahoe County Commissioner Marie Mackenzie, who served two four-year terms as commissioner from 1997 to 2005, died Wednesday.

A memorial is planned 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., Nov. 29 at Horan & McConaty, 5303 E. Countyline Road, Centennial, 80122. The memorial is open to the public and anyone who would like to help celebrate Mackenzie's life is welcome to attend.

A funeral service will be held 10:15 a.m., Nov. 30 at Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church, 34201 County Road 33, Kiowa, 80117.

Mackenzie served as commissioner, representing District 3, which includes the Town of Foxfield, portions of Centennial and Aurora and all of eastern Arapahoe County, where she worked tirelessly on behalf of the citizens of Arapahoe County.

During her eight years as commissioner, she championed water issues and focused her attention on transportation, land use, open space and historic preservation. Some of her accomplishments included the acquisition of the 17 Mile House, the development of the Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park and Bow Tie Park, and the creation of the County's Open Space program.

She was elected to the Board of County Commissioners in 1996 when the Board went from three members to five.

Her most notable legacy lives on at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Regional Park where she helped acquire more than 200 acres at Quincy Avenue and Powhatan Road to build the new facility, which opened to the public in 2006.

“Marie Mackenzie was a remarkable woman, an inspiring leader and a dedicated public servant,” said Commissioner Susan Beckman, who served with Mackenzie from 2001 to 2005. “A little bit of Arapahoe County died today with Marie's passing, but her legacy will live on through the 17 Mile House, the Fairgrounds, and the open space and water projects she championed as commissioner. We will truly miss her.”

In addition to serving as Arapahoe County Commissioner, Marie served on the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority and the Colorado Water Partnership, where she served as chair, as well as the Arapahoe County Airport Authority Board, which oversees Centennial Airport.

As commissioner, she was recognized by the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce with their first *Outstanding Public Official* award for her contributions to the community, her work on water issues and the preservation of open space and natural areas.

She also received the Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners *Citizens Award* for her work as an advocate for the stewardship organization, as well as drainage way enhancements and water quality in the south metro Denver area.

Earlier this year, the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority dedicated a training room at the Authority's new water treatment plant in her honor.

As a resident of Foxfield since 1967, Marie was one of the founding members of the town. She served on the Town of Foxfield Incorporation Committee, the Planning and Zoning and Grant committee and the Town's Communication and Financial Committees.

Marie was a registered nurse and a former real estate agent. She is preceded in death by son Jamie Mackenzie and survived by her husband, Jim, and four children (Gregg Mackenzie and his wife Sandie; Margy Spivey and her husband Joe; Betsy Thode and her husband Kirk; and daughter-in-law Jami Mackenzie.) Marie also is survived by five grandchildren: AJ Mackenzie, Colten and Hunter Spivey and Kaley and Nicholas Thode.

Condolences may be shared at HoranCares.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Arthritis Foundation's *Hope Through Heroes* memorial and tribute site at www.arthritis.org/donate

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Photo cutlines:

DSC00347: Arapahoe County Commissioner Marie Mackenzie (center) is pictured with Governor Bill Owens and Arapahoe County Commissioner Lynn Myers during the Aug. 28, 2003 dedication of Bow Tie Park, 28 acres of meadows, wetlands and stream banks on the south side of Cherry Creek State Park.

DSC0119: Commissioner Marie Mackenzie and husband Jim Mackenzie at a January 2005 celebration recognizing Mackenzie's eight years of service to Arapahoe County.

IMG5664: Commissioner Marie Mackenzie and Congressman Mike Coffman at the VIP kick-off dinner for the grand opening of the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Regional Park and 2006 Arapahoe County Fair.

IMG6017: Commissioners Marie Mackenzie, Lynn Myers and Fables of the West help celebrate the grand opening of the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds July 22, 2006.