

House Engrossed

Jim Carruthers; death resolution

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
First Regular Session
2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION 2012

A RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JIM CARRUTHERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 James Ross "Jim" Carruthers, a longtime leader in the Yuma
2 community, passed away on July 21, 2020 at the age of seventy-nine.

3 Born December 4, 1940 in Alamosa, Colorado, Jim was raised in Aztec,
4 New Mexico. After graduating from Aztec High School he received his
5 bachelor's and master's degrees from Western State College in Gunnison,
6 Colorado. There he met Jacqueline Schulz, whom he dated and later married
7 on August 17, 1968.

8 Jim and Jacqueline soon moved to Yuma, Arizona, where Jim served as
9 a counselor at Kofa High School and then as a financial aid officer and
10 football coach at Arizona Western College. While he worked there, he also
11 earned a doctorate in educational administration from Northern Arizona
12 University. In 1977, Jim became the Dean of Student Services and in 1984
13 he accepted the presidency of Arizona Western College. He served
14 honorably until 1997, during which time he was a dominant figure in the
15 modernization and growth of the college.

16 Jim's tenure as president of Arizona Western College left a lasting
17 impact on generations of local students. Over the course of his
18 presidency, Jim brought distance learning technology to the campus. He
19 was also instrumental in creating a partnership with Northern Arizona
20 University that brought both four-year and graduate programs to the Yuma
21 area. This partnership with Northern Arizona University, along with
22 future partnerships involving the University of Arizona, Arizona State
23 University and local Yuma school districts, would later evolve into the
24 K-20 consortium, which allows Yuma students to complete all of their
25 education, from kindergarten to doctoral programs, without leaving the
26 area. The modern-day landscape of education in Yuma County is due in
27 large part to the robust framework forged by Jim and his colleagues.

28 After leaving Arizona Western College in 1997, Jim went on to serve
29 for eight years in the Arizona Legislature, where he fought for rural Yuma
30 County values and education statewide. When he retired, Jim started his
31 own real estate rental company, which he continued to build with vigor
32 until his passing.

33 Jim leaves a legacy as a visionary educator, a scrupulous
34 politician, a dependable scholar and a virtuous citizen. A devoted
35 husband and father, Jim will be greatly missed by his loving wife,
36 Jacqueline, his son, James Scott, his daughter-in-law, Sandra, and his
37 grandchildren, brothers, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews.

38 Therefore

39 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

40 That the Members of the House of Representatives express their
41 condolences to the family and many friends of the Honorable
42 Jim Carruthers.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE APRIL 8, 2021.

H.R. 2012

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 12, 2021.