

REFERENCE TITLE: Honorable George Cunningham; death resolution

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

# HCR 2060

Introduced by  
Representative Stahl Hamilton

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE GEORGE CUNNINGHAM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1           The Honorable George Cunningham, dedicated former lawmaker and  
2 University of Arizona vice president, passed away on May 6, 2025 at the  
3 age of 80.

4           Born in 1945 in Nashua, New Hampshire, George was raised as a Boston  
5 Red Sox and Celtics fan. At 11 years of age, George and his family moved  
6 to Tucson. He attended Catalina High School, where he served as senior  
7 class president and ran cross country. He graduated from the University  
8 of Arizona, where he met the love of his life, Marjorie. They married in  
9 1969 and remained in Tucson.

10          George Cunningham created a legacy of diligence and purpose.  
11 Beginning his work in public service early, George was an army reservist  
12 and the assistant city manager of South Tucson while attending graduate  
13 school at the University of Arizona. He later worked for the Arizona  
14 State Senate, where he served as special assistant to the Senate  
15 president. He went on to serve his beloved University of Arizona, working  
16 in various administrative and financial capacities, including vice  
17 president for administrative services, associate vice president and  
18 director of planning and budgeting. As vice president, he managed various  
19 aspects of the learning environment, such as managing residential life and  
20 ensuring that the roads on campus were paved.

21          In 1988, George became the chief of staff for Governor Rose Mofford.  
22 He returned to the University of Arizona from 1990 to 1993 and helped form  
23 an international partnership with the Italian government to build the  
24 world's largest and most powerful telescope. He also worked on special  
25 assignments for the University's president on economic development  
26 initiatives. After his years of service there, he decided to run for  
27 office. In 1993 he became a member of the Arizona House of  
28 Representatives where he served in Democratic leadership, and in 1997 he  
29 moved to the Arizona State Senate where he served until 2001. Throughout  
30 his legislative service, George focused on fiscal policy, economic  
31 expansion and investing in Arizona's future. He was recognized by his  
32 legislative colleagues and business, labor and community leaders as an  
33 effective and knowledgeable legislator who worked to build bipartisan  
34 coalitions.

35          Continuing his service to the people of Arizona, George Cunningham  
36 served as Governor Janet Napolitano's budget director in her two terms.  
37 During that time, he also cofounded the Grand Canyon Institute, a  
38 nonpartisan think tank that provides fact-based research and education to  
39 lawmakers and the public on policies that affect the economic, social and  
40 fiscal future of this state.

41          Known to have a great sense of humor and a compassionate nature,  
42 George was a committed public servant to the people of Arizona and his  
43 hometown of Tucson. He often erased partisan lines for the benefit of his  
44 constituents. A natural-born leader, George was a trusted advisor to  
45 generations of elected officials. He loved restoring old cars with his

1 many friends, traveling with his wife and spending time with his  
2 grandchildren. After retirement, George also used his time and energy to  
3 volunteer for multiple committees dedicated to improving the quality of  
4 life for all Arizonans.

5 A loving husband, father and grandfather, George Cunningham is  
6 survived by his wife of 55 years, Marjorie, his children, Paul Cunningham  
7 (Alisa), Eve Cunningham-Schvidler (Joe) and Molly Carey (Joe), and his  
8 grandchildren, Joe, Kyle, Ben, Sophia, Alex, Lute, Brady, Lily and Susie.  
9 Therefore

10 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,  
11 the Senate concurring:

12 That the Members of the Legislature express sincere regret at the  
13 passing of the Honorable George Cunningham and extend their deepest  
14 condolences to his surviving family members.