

House Engrossed

Honorable George Cunningham; death resolution

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

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2060

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.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE FEBRUARY 19, 2026.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE SENATE FEBRUARY 19, 2026.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FEBRUARY 19, 2026.