



"Because it isn't just enough to say you care" - Ray showed us how.



Ray's political career was launched at Joseph Hall in the Grove, a Slovenian neighborhood in the days when Pueblo's neighborhoods were identified by the heritage of the immigrants who lived there.

Sponsored by: HIS FAMILY

He will remain in the hearts of Linda, his Wife, Lisa and ToniRae his Daughters, Reece his Grandson and his Brothers and Sister.

RAY KOGOVSEK "KOGO A PUEBLO ORIGINAL"

A Pueblo native, one of seven children, son of a steel worker, grew up in the Grove and later a house on Pine Street in the heart of Bessemer.

A 1959 graduate of Pueblo Catholic High School - attended Pueblo Junior College - a 1964 graduate of Adams State College - joined the staff of the Pueblo County Clerk and Recorder. He soon discovered a love for politics. Little did this genuine man from humble beginnings know he would one day walk the halls of the Colorado State Legislature, and the halls of the U. S. Congress representing the 3rd District in Washington D. C.

- 1968 elected to the Colorado House of Representatives at the age of 27
- 1970 elected to the Colorado Senate
- 1973 elected Senate Minority Leader
- 1978 elected to U.S. House of Representatives served three terms

When he realized he would need to raise over \$1M for the next election he decided not to seek re-election for a fourth term. Ray never lost an election and his base support was so wide had he chosen to run he would have been a formidable candidate for governor.

He retired from politics in 1985 and became a lobbyist forming Kogovsek & Associates specializing in natural resources and government. His advocacy for protecting water resources earned him the 2003 Wayne Aspinall Award from the Colorado Water Congress.

Ray passed away on April 30, 2017 at age 75. The Governor ordered all public building flags statewide to be lowered to half-staff on May 4, 2017 from sunrise to sunset in honor of former lawmaker and U.S. Rep. Ray Kogovsek. On that day many paid their final respects to their friend, "Kogo" as he laid in state at Roselawn Funeral Home Chapel.

Ray's final resting place is in the section designated as the St. Mary's section or more commonly known as the Slovenian or "Bojon Section". This is fitting to the man who was proud of his Slovenian heritage and had been named Colorado's honorary consul to Slovenia.

His legacy is that of a true warrior of democracy always willing to reach across the aisle. He was loved, respected, understood the importance of public service, led by example, and is remembered as a man of high ideals and integrity. He lived the American Dream.

Story published in The Hearts & Souls of Roselawn Vol. I