


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 20-1552

Recognizing the Service of William Lamont Jr. to the City of Denver

WHEREAS, William Lamont Jr. was born December 23, 1933 and was raised on the south side of Chicago to Marie (Fry) and William Lamont Sr., an immigrant from Port Glasgow, Scotland; and

WHEREAS, Bill attended Gage Park High School where he was a three-sport athlete and met the love of his life, Joan Kette. He attended the University of Colorado Boulder on a football scholarship and received a BA in geography in 1956. In 1959, he received his master's degree in urban planning from the Department of Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Illinois. He was a member of ROTC in college and retired as a captain in the Army Corps of Engineers Reserves; and

WHEREAS, Joan and Bill were married in 1955 in Chicago and raised their three children in Boulder. Their home was a gathering place, and Bill's warmth made everyone feel a part of the clan; and

WHEREAS, Bill pursued his passion for public service and community in a highly successful career in city planning. As the planning director for the city of Boulder from 1967 to 1972, he and the team were the architects of the Boulder Open Space Program, the Pearl Street Mall and several affordable housing neighborhoods. He was an adjunct professor and director of the College of Architecture & Planning at the University of Colorado Denver from 1972 to 1976. In private practice, Bill worked with rural communities grappling with the boom/bust cycle of resource extraction and reclamation of superfund sites. In 1983, Bill answered Denver Mayor Federico Pena's call to "Imagine a great city" and Bill, as part of the "Feddy and the Dreamers" team, set in place the rebirth of LoDo, located Coors Field and Elitch Gardens within the city, launched DIA, supported the development of Cherry Creek Mall and adopted neighborhood plans for every neighborhood in the city of Denver. He became a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Off the clock, he continued his commitment to making a difference by serving as a high school and small-college football referee throughout Colorado during the 1960s and '70s. Ever the athlete, he also played softball on team "Nebbish," which won the Boulder city championship in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Upon retirement, Bill and Joan moved to Carbondale, Colo., in 1999 to be closer to their three children and seven grandchildren. There, his passion for community kept him busy. He was elected to the local school board, formed the Garfield County Library District and as a board member, built or renovated six libraries. He ran for town council and initiated a regional housing study to address housing affordability. Bill was awarded the 2019 Pioneer Planner Award by the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association; and

WHEREAS, Participating in the lives of his grandchildren brought him his greatest joy. He coached Little League baseball and attended all the kids' plays and sporting events. He summited Mt. Sopris six times, toured Europe with Joan on guided bike tours, rode the Rockies twice and hiked the Grand Canyon rim to rim at 80. His most gratifying project was being a precollegiate mentor to 12 first-generation students, motivating them to pursue higher education. They are all attending college today; and

WHEREAS, Bill passed away peacefully on Oct. 17, 2020, at home surrounded by his family and wife of 65 years and is survived by his wife, Joan; his daughters Leslie (Lance Lockett) and Laurel (Eric Gross); and his son, Will. He is also survived by his former daughter-in-law Jennifer Lamont and seven grandchildren: Lamont and Foster Gross; Lyle and William Lockett; and Grace, Simone, and Leah Lamont.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes Bill Lamont for his visionary efforts that set our great city in motion to revive Downtown, Cherry Creek and Denver neighborhoods with investment in numerous projects that attracted residents and businesses back to the center city.

Section 2. That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes that Bill's work as Denver's Planning Director alongside Mayor Federico Pena helped foster the regional conversations to move Stapleton International Airport to its current location - now known as Denver International Airport (aka DEN); serving as the region's number one economic engine.

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to his wife Joan.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL December 14, 2020



- PRESIDENT