TRIBUTE TO RUTH COLE DUSENBY
HON. MARYLIN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruth Cole Dusenbury whose life was a shining example of responsible citizenship. Born in Maryland in 1929, Ruth's busy life led her to Holyoke, Colorado in 1974 where she became part owner of Speer Cushion Company and was an active participant in numerous professional organizations and civic groups.

Ruth was an energetic advocate for small business concerns. From 1976–1987 Ruth served in the local Business and Professional Women's Organization in all offices as well as District Chairman. She served as State Legislative Chairman for 2 years and she attended 3 national conventions as well as 6 state conventions. She was a member of a delegation of businesspeople from throughout the United States to the Republic of China in 1986. Mrs. Dusenbury participated in the State Leadership Initiative sponsored by then Secretary of State Natalie Meyers.

In 1984, Ruth was a member of the Statehouse Conference on Small Business and, in 1995, she was elected as a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business in Washington DC. Ruth was an active member of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, serving as a delegate to national meetings in 1996 and 1998.

Ruth also had a deep love of the arts. She was a board member of the Holyoke Community Arts Council for 30 years. She was a charter member of the Colorado Arts Consortium and participated in regional activities as well as at a national level with the National Association of Local Arts Agencies. Additionally, Ruth was President of the Colorado Arts Coalition for 2 years, an advocacy group for the arts.

The Republican Party also consumed a great deal of Ruth's time and energy. She was a campaign worker for Nixon/Agnew, Senator Hank Brown, Representative and Senator Wayne Allard, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Governor Bill Owens, and numerous state and local candidates. Ruth was the Republican chairman of Phillips County, Colorado and served as a delegate to the state conventions numerous years. She was an alternate to the Republican National Convention in 1984.

Ruth led by example and her enthusiastic community involvement demonstrated her passion for making a positive impact on the world around her. We have been saddened by the recent loss of this woman. She gave so much to her community and her state for so many years. Ruth Dusenbury was also well known as a loving wife and mother. She is leaving behind her loving husband Wally and two beautiful daughters.