He also indulges his passion for baseball by taking advantage of his Colorado Rockies season tickets. True, they’re not his beloved Chicago Cubs, but few know better than Groff that life is riddled with compromise.

For two decades, he was the impassioned, eloquent spokesman for liberal causes in the Colorado Senate, a man whose flights of oratory were legendary.

"There would be a hush when Regis went to the microphone," says former Sen. Mike Feeney, calling the Democrat "the finest public speaker ever to grace the floor of the state Senate."

Even those at the opposite end of the political spectrum were Groff fans.

"Regis was the most fun and challenging person to debate at the microphone of anyone I served with in the legislature," says Tom Norton, former Senate president. "I don’t know that he ever passed a whole bunch of bills. But he always made sure the point of view he represented was adequately considered."

Norton isn’t exaggerating in his remarks about Groff not passing a whole bunch of bills.

"Oh, it was thorough frustration to have zero influence, no power," says Groff of his 20 years in the minority party; years of futilely fighting to ban capital punishment, have the state divest itself from business relationships with the apartheid regime of South Africa, enhance the voter registration and establish gun control.

"But you have to raise issues that aren’t popular," says Groff. "You try to raise issues that touch the conscience of each human being."

Although Groff dismisses Sen. Jana Mendel’s claim that he was the conscience of the Senate to "overspeak," he doesn’t deny that he was loath to back down from an issue.

"That’s why in April 1993, only months after Coloradans passed Amendment 2—largely seen as a slap at homosexual rights—Groff tried to get the Senate to put it back on the ballot to let voters "revisit" the measure."

That same session, he was blunt about his feelings for Douglas Bruce, author of Amendment 1, which limited the state’s ability to raise taxes and spend money.

On the floor, Groff said that Bruce, a California transplant, "alitered into Colorado and hoodwinked the state."

Standing alone was second nature to Groff: He was the Senate’s only black. And political ostracism was nothing new for a guy who knew all about racial discrimination.

When he first arrived in Denver in 1963, to begin what would be a lengthy career as an educator, he and his wife were repeatedly denied rental homes in Park Hill because, as landlords told him, ‘We don’t rent to coloreds.’

Growing up the son of a potter in Monmouth, Ill., a small rural community, Groff wasn’t allowed in the YMCA pool.

Racial intolerance was still an emphatic given when he was attending Western Illinois University. Along with a group of other black students, Groff led a successful push to force a local barbershop to serve black students.

"Buddy and his wife Vanda, they opened two rental homes in Park Hill because, as an educator, he and his wife were repeatedly denied rental homes in Park Hill because," says Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an error I made earlier today in voting for the previous question motion on the Treasury, Postal Appropriations bill. As is customary on such procedural motions which I voted "aye." Had I been aware of the implications of the vote, I would have voted "no."

I have been and continue to be an opponent of Congressional pay raises. Fiscal discipline must start with our elected officials. My constituents don’t get a cost of living increase every year and neither should we. Had I known the previous question vote would be construed as having anything to do with a congressional COLA, I would have opposed it. Not only do I oppose the pay raise itself, but I strongly oppose the manner in which this issue is handled. We ought to have a clear opportunity to vote on the Treasury, Postal Appropriations bill. As is customary on such procedural motions which I voted "aye." Had I been aware of the implications of the vote, I would have voted "no."

If others feel differently, let them cast their vote in the light of day and explain it to their constituents. To disguise an issue as important, as a congressional pay raise inside a procedural motion is less than honest. Such gimmicks further erode the American people’s trust in elected officials. My constituents deserve my attention on each and every vote. One the issue of a congressional pay raise, the American people deserve better from all of us.

Mr. Moran of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to ensure that all veterans, regardless of where they live, have

### HONORING THE LATE GLADYS "SKEETER" WERNER WALKER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

**OF COLORADO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, July 25, 2001**

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember the accomplished and unforgettable life of Gladys “Skeeter” Werner Walker. She was truly a kind person and an outstanding athlete. As family and friends mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to this longtime resident of Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Skeeter was born in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, with the rest of her family, and was the oldest of three siblings who grew up to ski at the Olympics. She was joined on the Olympic slopes by two brothers: Buddy and Loris, trained locally on Howelsen Hill and traveled later to ski in the Alps. The Werner family’s prominence in the skiing world flourished to such an extent that the name of the ski mountain in Steamboat Springs was changed from Storm Mountain to Mount Werner in their honor.

Skeeter began skiing at age one and entering competitions by the age of five. Perhaps one of her greatest achievements was being selected as the youngest member of the U.S. Alpine World Championship Team in 1954, at the age of 21. At the downhill event in Sweden, Skeeter placed 10th. Her triumph was awarded when she graced the cover of Sports Illustrated and became recognized as one of America’s great Olympians. When Skeeter again returned to the Olympics in 1956 in Italy, she again garnered a 10th place finish in the downhill race.

Skiing was not Skeeter’s only career. After retiring from skiing in 1958, she relocated to New York where she was a model and a fashion designer. The family valley drew Skeeter back in 1992, and along with her brother Buddy and his wife Vanda, they opened two ski shops in Steamboat and Skeeter initiated the first ski school at Storm Mountain. Every step of the way opened a new opportunity for Skeeter and her family that allowed them to have a dramatic impact on the Yampa Valley that will last forever. She fell in love with and, in 1969, married Doak Walker, the 1948 Heisman Trophy winner. Together, Doak and Skeeter helped to shape Steamboat and the skiing community. Doak passed away in 1998 following a skiing injury several months earlier.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Skeeter was a person who lived an accomplished life. Although friends and family are profoundly saddened by her passing on Friday, July 20, each can take solace in the wonderful life that she led. At the age of 67, Skeeter was an outstanding member of the community and a heroic role model for others. I know I speak for everyone who knew Skeeter well when I say she will be greatly missed.