

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-eighth Legislature
First Regular Session
2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1029

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF JEFFREY SMITH GROSCOST.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Jeffrey Smith Groscost, former Speaker of the Arizona House of
2 Representatives, died suddenly on November 3, 2006 at the age of forty-five.

3 Jeff Groscost was born on April 29, 1961 in Tooele, Utah to Ken and
4 Catherine Groscost. A fifth generation Arizonan, he attended Mesa High
5 School, Mesa Community College, Brigham Young University and Arizona State
6 University, and he served a mission for his church in Curitiba, Brazil. He
7 married Dana Ipsen and together they had six children, Chad, Logan, Reagan,
8 Gunnar, Griffin and Jesse. Jeff Groscost always placed his faith and his
9 family at the forefront of each day.

10 Jeff Groscost was a small business owner who was introduced to politics
11 by successfully opposing a tax increase in the City of Mesa. He followed in
12 the political footsteps of his great-great-grandfather, Jesse Nathaniel
13 Smith, who served in the 19th session of the Arizona Territorial Legislature.
14 First elected to the House in 1992, Jeff Groscost proved to be highly adept
15 at the legislative process and ably represented his constituents in Mesa,
16 Gilbert, Queen Creek and Higley. He became the House Majority Whip in 1995,
17 and in 1997 he was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. He was
18 the youngest person in the nation to hold that post at the time. As Speaker,
19 Jeff Groscost distinguished himself as a skilled strategist whose optimism
20 and leadership were instrumental in the passage of key legislation. His
21 legacy as a conservative visionary was reinforced through a number of
22 historic measures he shepherded through the legislative process, including
23 pro-life parental consent legislation, the largest tax cuts in state history,
24 the scholarship tax credits for public and private schools, Loper's law for
25 extreme DUI and public charter schools. Other hallmarks of Jeff's tenure as
26 Speaker included construction of University of Phoenix Stadium, promotion of
27 alternative fuel usage and electric deregulation. Jeff loved the Navajo
28 people and made numerous official visits to the Navajo Nation as Speaker. He
29 supported funding for Diné College and the creation of a special
30 Arizona-Navajo Nation license plate. Jeff Groscost showed great
31 determination, enthusiasm and humor in all that he did, and he earned the
32 respect and admiration of his peers on both sides of the political aisle.

33 After leaving the House of Representatives in 2001, Jeff Groscost
34 continued to be active in various worthwhile civic, community, and business
35 endeavors. He was active as a leader with the Boy Scouts of America, and
36 faithfully wore his "Duty to God" award on his lapel. Jeff assisted
37 countless young men achieve their Eagle rank, and he frequently hosted
38 Capitol tours for Scouts and included their honor guards in special House of
39 Representatives ceremonies. He served on the board of the Mesa United Way
40 and as the Republican chairman in Mesa-based District 18. A lifelong member
41 of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he was serving in the
42 Bishopric of the Southern Estates Ward in the Mesa Kimball Stake at the time
43 of his death. Jeff Groscost was a confidant of United States Senator John
44 McCain, who eulogized him by describing him as a great young American who

1 lived up to the principles of the man who inspired him to get into
2 politics - former President Ronald Reagan.

3 Jeff Groscost was deeply loyal to and protective of his legislative
4 staff, and he was committed to improving the physical conditions of the House
5 of Representatives. During his tenure, significant modernizations of the
6 House facilities were undertaken. He opened the Arizona legislative process
7 to the world, with the first live legislative proceedings to ever be
8 broadcast over the internet. As Speaker, he oversaw some of the most
9 memorable opening days in Arizona history, and keynote addresses were given
10 by such national figures as Charlton Heston, Paul Harvey, Glen Campbell,
11 Randy Johnson and Jake Plummer. Jeff Groscost brought with him to the
12 Legislature his lifelong affinity for reptiles, as his supporters nicknamed
13 him and his cohorts "the Gila Monster Caucus."

14 Jeff Groscost was dedicated to his wife of twenty-two years, Dana, and
15 their children. He volunteered regularly to coach his children's teams, and
16 to attend their performances. Jeff Groscost is also survived by his parents,
17 Ken and Catherine, his brother Gregory, his sisters, Elizabeth, Kristen and
18 Amy, his Navajo sister Rosie Bingham and his many nieces and nephews. He
19 will be greatly missed by his family and many friends as well as the citizens
20 of Mesa and the State of Arizona.

21 Therefore

22 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
23 Representatives concurring:

24 That the Members of the Legislature express sincere regret at the
25 passing of Jeff Groscost and extend their deepest sympathies to his surviving
26 family members.