

October 2022's President's News:



Colorado Governor's with October Birthdays

George Carlson, Term: 20th, 1915-1917, October 23, 1876, in Ohio; Julius Gunter, Term: 21st: 1917 – 1919, October 31, 1858, in Arkansas; Roy Romer, Term: 39th: 1987 – 1999 in Kansas; Bill Owens, Term: 40th: 1999 – 2007 born in Texas.

An Amazing Woman for Colorado:



Sara Platt Decker (October 1, 1855 – July 1912) Sara was born in McIndoe Falls, Vermont, Sara Sophia Chase. Her parents were prominent antislavery and temperance and aiding the less fortunate advocates. Sara married in 1875, at the age of twenty to Mr. Charles B. Harris. Her marriage was short-lived, as Mr. Harris died only two years later. At that time an event occurred which shaped her remaining life. On the death of her husband, all her possessions (including wedding gifts, and her personal possessions) were divided up among her husband's family. She only received the one-third the family members deemed to give her. This was known as the "widow's third". This unfair action started her on her long journey for women's suffrage and legal rights. In 1884, then twenty-eight, she married Colonel James H. Platt (a Civil War veteran), physician and tree-term US congressman from Virginia. The couple lived in Queens, New York where they welcomed a daughter; Harriet Platt. This was the time Sara became interested in the child-welfare movement. The family later moved to Denver. Sarah became actively involved in civic life. She led relief efforts for those devastated by the Panic of 1893 as well as those affected by the shuttering of mines across our state. During that time, she actively campaigned for the vote for women, which was approved by voters, in Colorado, in 1893.

Sarah turned her attention to politics. She worked for President William Jennings Bryan's campaign. During this effort she gained recognition as an effective speaker and organizer. She served on many state and local boards! But the women's movement was always dear to her. She became involved in the women's club movement in the mid 1800's. The social aspect of these clubs changed from social based to civic & social welfare during her time, and she is recognized as being a key player in this transition. In 1894 became the first president of the Woman's Club of Denver, which united women's clubs across Denver under a single organization. It was that year that Sarah lost her second husband, to a boating accident. Sara was strong in organizing the clubs and creating standing committees to work for various problems of that time, including all to work for the improvement of society. In 1896 she was recognized by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and was elected Vice President to the General Federation in 1898, (She later served as president for two terms, from 1904 – 1908). In 1899 Sarah married Judge Westbrook S. Decker. This marriage was short, as the Judge died in 1903. Sara had outlived three husbands by age forty-eight!

One of Sarah's last achievements was working for the conservation of national resources and advocating for new state and national parks. She was very active in advocating for the preservation of **Mesa Verde**, which was created as a National Park in 1906. She was invited by President Teddy Roosevelt to attend [as the only female delegate] to a Governor's Conference in 1908. Sara died following emergency surgery, for an abdominal obstruction, in 1912 at the age of fifty-six.

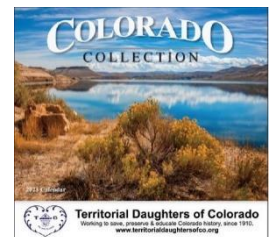
What a remarkable woman! Colorado is better for the work and care Sarah Platt Decker bestowed on us.

Colorado Calendars for 2023

Territorial Daughters of Colorado, Denver Chapter is selling Scenic Colorado Wall Calendars, for 2023. These beautiful calendars have a different photo – each month – of our beloved state.

It also will have our name and mission tag-line visible every month all for the low cost of \$7.00 each. We have a limited number of these beautiful items.

If you are interested in a calendar, please let me know: p.a.collins@comcast.net (720-234-8422)



Denver Chapter's next meeting: October 26, 2022 at the Coventry Club House. Board meeting will be at 11:00 am, and speaker, Janice Baker will present her families history of the Santa Fe trail beginning at noon. All are welcome to attend, but please RSVP on our website for entrance to Coventry. Hope to see you there!!

Pam