



Utah Legislature



OFFICIAL CITATION RECOGNIZING

Spencer Fox Eccles

The Utah Legislature recognizes Spencer Fox Eccles for a lifetime of service to Utah through business leadership, philanthropy, and public benefit.

A lifelong Utahn, Spencer Fox Eccles grew up in Ogden as the son, nephew, and grandson of a prominent Utah banking and industrialist family. He was immersed in the values of family, hard work, and community service that would define his life.

From an early age, Mr. Eccles developed a deep love of winter sports, spending his youth on the snowy slopes of Snowbasin. He was the first in his family to attend the University of Utah and lettered all four years on the University's Ski Team. During his senior year, he placed among the top ten in alpine events at national competition and was named a collegiate All-American, as well as a member of the 1956 National FIS team.

While at the University of Utah, Mr. Eccles earned his bachelor's degree in business, joined Beta Theta Pi fraternity, boxed in the Tin Gloves, and participated in the ROTC, receiving a commission as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army. During this time, he also met Cleone Peterson, the love of his life, his wife of 54 years, and his lifelong partner in family and philanthropic endeavors. He later completed a master's degree in finance at Columbia University.

At age 31, following his father's death in 1965, Mr. Eccles stepped forward to complete a fundraising campaign for a new medical library at his alma mater. Through personal leadership and family support, he completed the campaign for what would become the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, which opened in 1971. This effort marked the beginning of a generational legacy of philanthropy in Utah higher education.

Mr. Eccles went on to a distinguished career of more than four decades at First Security Corporation, the preeminent banking institution in the Intermountain West, culminating in his service as chairman and chief executive officer from 1982 to 2000. Upon the company's historic merger with Wells Fargo Bank, he joined the Wells Fargo board of directors. His leadership has also extended through service on numerous boards, including Union Pacific Railroad, Intermountain Health, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the National Chamber of Commerce, ZCMI Corporation, Anderson Lumber Company, Alta Ski Corporation, the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, and the National Parks Foundation.

Mr. Eccles' lifelong commitment to winter sports intensified in the lead-up to the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, during which he served on the three-member executive committee of the Salt Lake

Olympic Organizing Committee and was appointed mayor of the Olympic Village at the University of Utah. There, he received the Pierre de Coubertin Medal from the International Olympic Committee, recognizing sportsmanship, fair play, and extraordinary leadership.

As chairman of five family foundations, including the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, the largest and oldest foundation in the state, Mr. Eccles has helped direct more than \$1.6 billion in charitable giving throughout Utah.

This legacy of service is shared by his children—Hope, Lisa, Katie, and Spencer—and continues through future generations. It culminated in a transformational \$110 million gift to endow the University of Utah's medical school, which bears his name, and a foundational \$75 million gift to build a new hospital and health campus in West Valley City.

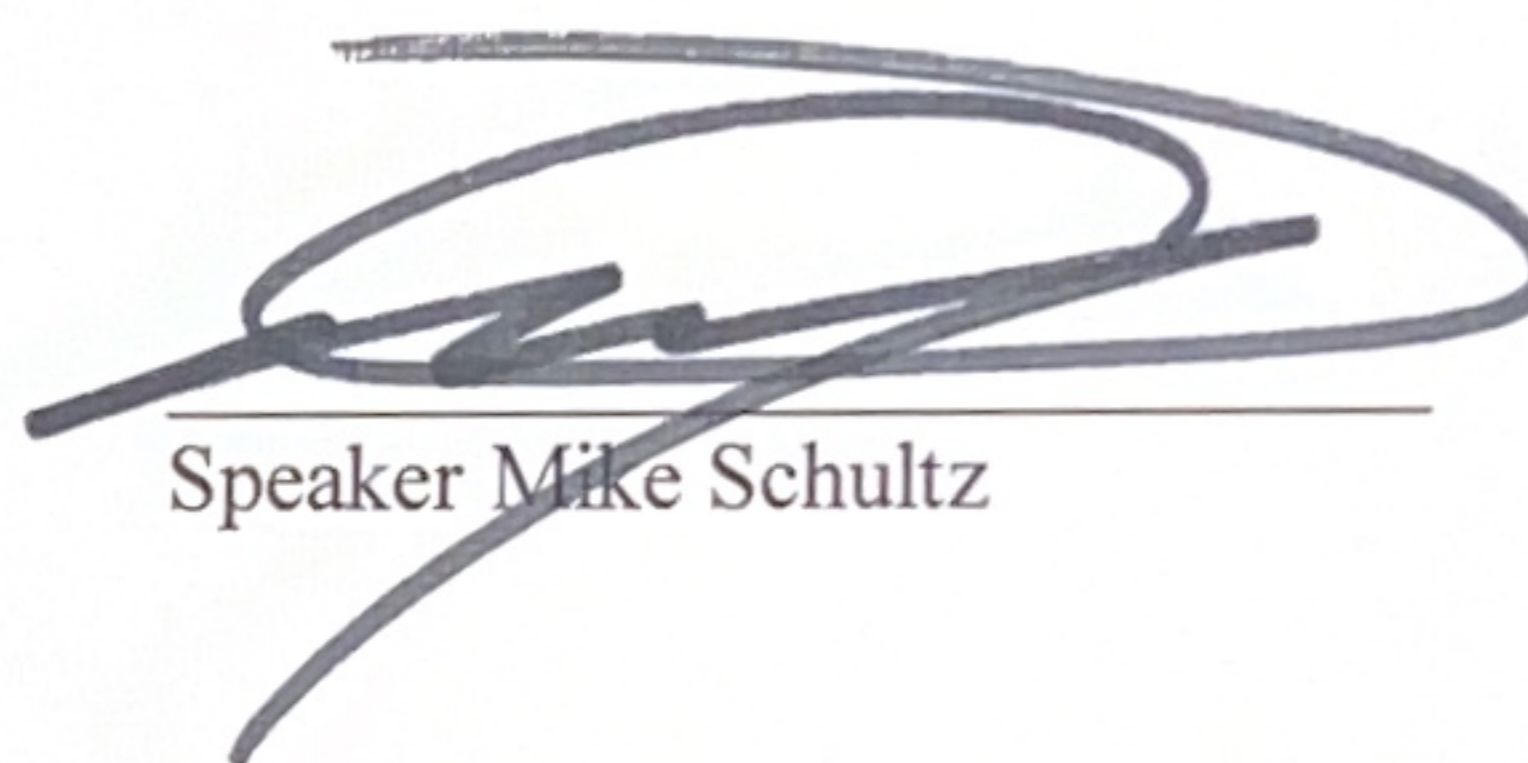
Beyond education and health care, the Eccles family's philanthropy has supported Utah's cultural institutions, including the Utah Symphony, Ballet West, the Eccles Theater, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and numerous other arts organizations.

Mr. Eccles' example of integrity, leadership, vision, sportsmanship, generosity, and unwavering optimism reflects the best traditions of Utah civic life, and his lasting legacy will benefit Utah families, students, patients, entrepreneurs, and communities for generations to come.

Now, therefore, be it known, on this 28th day of January 2026, the Utah Legislature recognizes Spencer Fox Eccles for his lifetime of service to the State of Utah and expresses gratitude for his enduring dedication to strengthening Utah's institutions, expanding opportunity, and improving the quality of life for all Utahns.



President J. Stuart Adams



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