



**WILLIAM (BILL) A. KNOTT**  
**POLITICAL, PUBLIC SERVICE, EDUCATION**

*Bill was born in Muscatine, Iowa, in 1942. In 1971, Knott and his wife moved to Colorado, where he took over as county librarian for Jefferson County, a position he held until his retirement in 2007. He turned Jefferson County's library system from one-room affairs to state-of-the-art facilities.*

*Knott's impact on Jefferson County Libraries goes far beyond improving facilities and increasing staff and the number of books available. Through his efforts and leadership the library system is nationally recognized as a pioneer and model for other systems throughout the country. He has fought for readers' rights and enhanced internet services for library users.*

*When Bill first came to Jefferson County, we had a collection of about 200,000 items in the system, with an annual budget of \$700,000. Under his leadership, the Jefferson County Public Library is now the second-largest library system in the state of Colorado and in the entire Rocky Mountain Region, serving 774 square miles. It has 10 libraries, seven of which are approximately 30,000 square feet in size; a Bookmobile that provides special services for senior citizens; and a traveling children's library that offers reading assistance to low-income children in the county. The Library has a staff of 230 full-time and 270 part-time employees, a collection of more than 1.2 million items, and an annual budget of \$25 million. Of the 540,000 Jefferson County residents, more than half are library card holders.*

*Through hard work, creativity and a drive to be the best, Bill Knott has consistently enhanced the quality of library service for Jefferson County and beyond. He is a man of rare vision, dedication and achievement.*

*William A. Knott was elected to the Jefferson County Historical Commission Hall of Fame in 2008.*