



## *Colorado General Assembly*

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 00-032

BY SENATORS Dennis, Thiebaut, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Blickensderfer, Chlouber, Congrove, Dyer, Epps, Evans, Feeley, Hernandez, Hillman, Lacy, Lamborn, Linkhart, Martinez, Matsunaka, Musgrave, Nichol, Owen, Pascoe, Perlmutter, Phillips, Powers, Reeves, Rupert, Sullivant, Tanner, Tebedo, Teck, Wattenberg, Weddig, and Wham;

also REPRESENTATIVES Lawrence, Spradley, Tapia, Gagliardi, Alexander, Allen, Bacon, Berry, Chavez, Clapp, Clarke, Coleman, Dean, Decker, Fairbank, George, Gordon, Gotlieb, Grossman, Hagedorn, Hefley, Hoppe, Johnson, Kaufman, Keller, Kester, King, Larson, Lee, Leyba, Mace, May, McElhany, McKay, McPherson, Miller, Mitchell, Morrison, Nunez, Paschall, Pfiffner, Plant, Ragsdale, Saliman, Scott, Sinclair, Smith, Spence, Stengel, Swenson, Takis, Tate, Taylor, Tochtrop, Tool, Tupa, Veiga, Vigil, Webster, S. Williams, T. Williams, Windels, Witwer, Young, and Zimmerman.

CONCERNING WELCOMING THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY TO PUEBLO.

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. Generally presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress, it is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Most military veterans have never actually seen a Medal of Honor, much less met one of the few distinguished individuals authorized to display it around his or her neck. Since it was established in 1862 at the beginning of the Civil War, it has only been awarded to 3,411 heroes, nearly half of whom were Civil War soldiers; and

WHEREAS, On August 5, 1958, President Dwight Eisenhower signed legislation sent to him by Congress chartering the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. The purposes of the organization are clearly spelled out in its charter, and include the following:

- Creation of a bond of brotherhood and comradeship among all living recipients of the Medal of Honor;
- Maintaining the memory and respect for those who died and received the Medal of Honor, as well as those living recipients who have since died;
- Protecting and preserving the dignity and honor of the Medal of Honor at all times and on all occasions;
- Protecting the name of the Medal of Honor as well as individual Medal of Honor recipients from exploitation;
- Providing assistance and aid to needy Medal of Honor recipients, their spouses or widows or widowers, and their children;
- Promoting patriotism and allegiance to the United States;
- Serving the United States in peace or war;
- Promoting and perpetuating the principles upon which our nation is founded;
- Fostering patriotism and inspiring and stimulating our youth to become worthy citizens of our country; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Medal Of Honor Society is certainly one of the most unique organizations in the country. Its small membership includes men of all races, social classes, and economic levels. They range in stature from 5'2" to 6'5", in age from 48 to 90, and they live in all areas of our country. Among them are scholars and ordinary men, successful entrepreneurs and struggling laborers, ministers and misfits, very rich to very poor. No amount of money, power, or influence can buy one's rite of passage into this exclusive circle; and

WHEREAS, All the Medal of Honor recipients have in common is a passionate love for the United States of America and the distinct honor of wearing our nation's highest award for military valor, the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Today the number of living Medal of Honor recipients is at its lowest point in history with only 150 living recipients as of October 14, 1999. Of these few remaining heroes, 104 are over the age of 65. Thus has passed to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society a new challenge, struggling to maintain a heritage that is quickly vanishing. Members of the Society now meet for an annual reunion and smaller gatherings from time to time; and

WHEREAS, While each of the Society's members is quick to point out that, since the Medal can only be received for war-time heroism, they hope that there will be no new members of the Society; and

WHEREAS, It is often lamented that our nation needs real heroes for us to admire and emulate. The men who have received our nation's highest award for heroism certainly meet the criteria. In an age that worships sports heroes, movie stars, and the rich and famous, Medal of Honor recipients stand out. Their claim to the title "hero" comes not from athletic prowess, a celebrity fan club, or financial success. These men attained their title for caring enough about their nation and their comrades in arms, to risk and often sacrifice their lives, that others might live; and

WHEREAS, Once heroes on the battlefield, the Medal recipients' devotion now extends to traveling the country to foster patriotism, meet young people, and pay tribute to the nation's soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Pueblo, Colorado is the only city in the United States to claim four recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and Pueblo Central High School, in Pueblo, is the only high school in the United States to graduate two Medal of Honor recipients; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 1993, the United States Congress recognized Pueblo as "The Home of Heroes"; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor Society will host their 2000 national convention in Pueblo in September; and

WHEREAS, At the convention, the city of Pueblo will unveil an outdoor exhibit in honor of its four hometown Medal recipients as well as a memorial wall listing all of the Medal recipients in the nation's history; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

That we, the members of the General Assembly, hereby welcome and honor the members of the Medal of Honor Society to Pueblo this September. In remembrance of your great service to and sacrifice for our nation, we wish to recognize and honor each individual member and extend a heartfelt thank you.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Medal of Honor Society, headquartered on the USS Yorktown in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, and the Pueblo Convention Committee for distribution to those members attending the 2000 convention.

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Ray Powers  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Russell George  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Patricia K. Dicks  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Judith M. Rodrigue  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES