

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R14-0984.01 Owen Colling x4338

SJR14-030

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts and Kefalas, Aguilar, Crowder

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Dore,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-030

101 CONCERNING MEMORIALIZING THE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO PEOPLE
102 WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE SAND CREEK MASSACRE,
103 HONORING THEIR DESCENDANTS, AND COMMEMORATING THE
104 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THAT TRAGIC EVENT.

1 WHEREAS, On November 29, 1864, approximately 675 United
2 States soldiers under the command of Colonel John Chivington killed
3 more than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho villagers, mostly elderly men,
4 women, and children, approximately 180 miles southeast of Denver near
5 Eads, Colorado; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite assurance from American negotiators that
7 they would be safe, and despite Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle raising both
8 a United States flag and a white flag as symbols of peace, Colonel

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 Chivington ordered his troops to take no prisoners and to pillage and set
2 the village ablaze, violently forcing the ambushed and outnumbered
3 Cheyenne and Arapaho villagers to flee on foot; and

4 WHEREAS, Colonel Chivington and his troops paraded mutilated
5 body parts of men, women, and children in downtown Denver, Colorado,
6 in celebration of the massacre; and

7 WHEREAS, Captain Silas Soule, commander of Company D, 1st
8 Colorado Cavalry, remains a symbol of bravery, as he pleaded with his
9 commander Colonel Chivington not to attack the peaceful villagers,
10 refused to order his soldiers to participate in the massacre, alerted the
11 United States Congress and the public to the massacre that it might be
12 investigated, testified in Army hearings against his commander, and later
13 was assassinated for his efforts to illuminate the truth; and

14 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Joseph Cramer, commander of Company
15 K, also stood with Captain Soule, as did at least 100 other soldiers, in
16 refusing to follow orders to participate in the massacre, and Lieutenant
17 Cramer also notified authorities by letter of the atrocities he witnessed
18 that day and testified before an Army commission; and

19 WHEREAS, The Sand Creek Massacre was a tragedy of
20 worldwide importance and continues to impact the sovereign Tribal
21 nations whose ancestors were massacred that tragic day; and

22 WHEREAS, Colorado Senate Joint Resolution 99-017 added an
23 interpretive plaque to the Civil War monument outside the State Capitol,
24 explaining the mischaracterization of the Sand Creek Massacre as a battle
25 and the people of Colorado's struggle to interpret and take responsibility
26 for the past; and

27 WHEREAS, The National Park Service established, by an act of
28 Congress, the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, which opened
29 in April 2007 to preserve and protect the physical and cultural landscape
30 of the massacre and to enhance public awareness and understanding; and

31 WHEREAS, The Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana, the
32 Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho
33 Tribes of Oklahoma organized the annual Sand Creek Spiritual Healing
34 Run in 1999 that begins in Eads, Colorado, and ends on the steps of the
35 State Capitol, to remember what the Cheyenne and Arapaho people

1 endured and to honor those killed; and

2 WHEREAS, Healing from such tragedy requires, in part,
3 recognition of and redress for the tragedy, and efforts have been made
4 both to help educate the public about the massacre and to teach respect
5 for diverse cultures in order to better understand and learn from the past;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Educating the public about the Sand Creek Massacre
8 and people like Captain Silas Soule and Lieutenant Joseph Cramer who
9 stood up for justice encourages people to stand up against injustices now
10 and prevent tragedies such as this in the future; and

11 WHEREAS, November 29, 2014, is the 150th anniversary of the
12 Sand Creek Massacre, and the State of Colorado recognizes the lives that
13 were lost and that healing from this devastating event must continue; and

14 WHEREAS, Governor Hickenlooper issued Executive Order
15 B 2014-003 on March 17, 2014, establishing the Sand Creek Massacre
16 Commemoration Commission to plan and prepare events for the 150th
17 anniversary of the massacre that respect and memorialize the Cheyenne
18 and Arapaho people and their ancestors, promote cross-cultural
19 understanding, and educate the public about the massacre and the events
20 surrounding it so such atrocities can be prevented in the future; now,
21 therefore,

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

24 That we, the members of the General Assembly, acknowledge the
25 devastation caused by the Sand Creek Massacre and seek to raise public
26 awareness about the tragic event, the Cheyenne and Arapaho people, and
27 events surrounding it.

28 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
29 to Governor Eddie Hamilton of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of
30 Oklahoma; Chairman Darrell O'Neal, Sr., of the Northern Arapaho
31 Business Council; President Llevando Fisher of the Northern Cheyenne
32 Tribal Council; Governor John Hickenlooper; Lieutenant Governor
33 Joseph Garcia; and the Sand Creek Massacre Commemoration
34 Commission.