

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R14-0099.01 Jery Payne x2157

**SJR14-015**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Crowder,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Garcia and Navarro,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-015**

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A BRIDGE THAT CROSSES THE**  
102 **ARKANSAS RIVER ON COLORADO STATE HIGHWAY 207 AS "THE**  
103 **SSGT JUSTIN L. VASQUEZ MEMORIAL BRIDGE".**

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1 WHEREAS, Justin L. Vasquez was born in Rocky Ford, Colorado,  
2 on January 26, 1979; resided in Manzanola, Colorado; graduated high  
3 school in 1997; and entered the United States Army in August 1997; and

4 WHEREAS, Vasquez participated in basic training at Fort Knox,  
5 Kentucky, and was later stationed at Fort Polk, Kentucky, as squad leader  
6 with Troop C, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment; and

7 WHEREAS, In January 2002 Sergeant Vasquez was assigned to  
8 Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort

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 Carson, Colorado, where he was deployed as a platoon sergeant in  
2 support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" from March 2003 through March  
3 2004; and

4 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Vasquez was again deployed to Iraq  
5 in March 2005 as a Bradley Commander; and

6 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Vasquez, 26, was killed on June 5,  
7 2005, in Baghdad, along with two other servicemen, by an improvised  
8 explosive device while assisting fellow soldiers who had previously been  
9 attacked; and

10 WHEREAS, Those killed with Staff Sergeant Vasquez were:  
11 Private First Class Brian Ulbrich, 23, of Chapmanville, West Virginia,  
12 and Specialist Eric Poelman, 21, of Racine Wisconsin; and

13 WHEREAS, His awards and decorations include the: Bronze Star,  
14 Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal  
15 (4th OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (2nd Award), Global War on  
16 Terrorism Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, National Defense Service  
17 Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Air Assault Badge, and Drivers Badge (T);  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Vasquez is survived by his spouse,  
20 Riley, and child, Justin, as well as parents and siblings; and

21 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Vasquez was recognized as an  
22 outstanding noncommissioned officer by his superiors and peers alike and  
23 was beloved by his soldiers; and

24 WHEREAS, Through strong moral convictions and equally strong  
25 leadership skills, Staff Sergeant Vasquez upheld the honor and heritage  
26 of "Duty, Honor, Country" to the highest standards of the United States  
27 Army; now, therefore,

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

30 (1) That the bridge spanning the Arkansas River approximately 1.5  
31 miles south of Manzanola on Colorado State Highway 207 be named  
32 "SSGT Justin L. Vasquez Memorial Bridge";

1           (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept  
2 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial  
3 placement of signs to mark the bridge as the "SSGT Justin L. Vasquez  
4 Memorial Bridge"; and

5           (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore  
6 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for  
7 Otero County for the maintenance of the markings for the SSGT Justin L.  
8 Vasquez Memorial Bridge.

9           *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be  
10 hand delivered by Senator Crowder to Staff Sergeant Vasquez's spouse,  
11 child, and parents and the mayor of Manzanola, Colorado.