



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-015

BY SENATOR(S) Crowder, Aguilar, Balmer, Baumgardner, Brophy, Cadman, Grantham, Guzman, Harvey, Heath, Herpin, Hill, Hodge, Jahn, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, King, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Newell, Nicholson, Rivera, Roberts, Scheffel, Schwartz, Steadman, Tochtrop, Todd, Ulibarri, Zenzinger, Carroll;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Garcia and Navarro, Becker, Buck, Buckner, Conti, Coram, Court, DelGrosso, Dore, Duran, Everett, Exum, Fields, Foote, Gardner, Gerou, Ginal, Hamner, Holbert, Hullinghorst, Humphrey, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, May, McCann, McLachlan, McNulty, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Murray, Nordberg, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Schafer, Scott, Singer, Sonnenberg, Stephens, Swalm, Szabo, Tyler, Vigil, Waller, Williams, Wilson, Wright, Young, Ferrandino.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A BRIDGE THAT
CROSSES THE ARKANSAS RIVER ON COLORADO STATE
HIGHWAY 207 AS "THE SSG JUSTIN L. VAZQUEZ MEORMIAL
BRIDGE".

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

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

WHEREAS, In January 2002 Sergeant Vasquez was assigned to Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado, where he was deployed as a platoon sergeant in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" from March 2003 through March

2004; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Morgan Carroll
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Mark Ferrandino
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES