

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-0987.01 Joel Moore x4497

HJR16-1006

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-1006

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF EAST SIXTH**
102 **AVENUE IN AURORA AS THE "COLORADO FREEDOM MEMORIAL**
103 **HIGHWAY".**

1 WHEREAS, Eighty-eight Colorado soldiers are buried at
2 Normandy Beach, France, and thousands of others were laid to rest in
3 distant cemeteries or their remains were never recovered in wars on
4 foreign soil; and

5 WHEREAS, In May 2000, a group of veterans, historians, and
6 citizens assembled by Rick Crandall and Pat Smith, State Adjutant of the
7 Colorado American Legion, began a series of meetings at the Legion's
8 state headquarters to begin discussing the parameters for which
9 individuals would be included on a memorial dedicated to all Colorado
10 veterans killed in action; and

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 WHEREAS, The group concluded that such a memorial would
2 honor veterans who were killed in action or from wounds received in
3 combat action and who had listed Colorado as their home of record upon
4 entering service and would date back to the Spanish American War, so as
5 to include all wars since Colorado attained statehood; and

6 WHEREAS, The very first task accomplished by this group was
7 creating the name of the memorial--Pat Smith simply stated, "It should be
8 called the Colorado Freedom Memorial"; and

9 WHEREAS, Rick Crandall met with an architectural designer,
10 then-25-year-old Kristoffer Kenton, who began the design process of the
11 Colorado Freedom Memorial; in April 2001, Kenton finished the design
12 of what would be one of the most unique and beautiful military
13 memorials in America; and

14 WHEREAS, In January 2003, the Aurora City Council gave
15 unanimous approval to move forward with creating an agreement
16 between the city and the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation for the
17 location of the memorial at Telluride Street and Sixth Avenue, near
18 Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora; and

19 WHEREAS, A partnership was created between the Colorado
20 Freedom Memorial Foundation and the Aurora Parks, Recreation, and
21 Open Space Department; the partnership continues to this day under the
22 leadership of Diane Crandall, who manages the events and day-to-day
23 operation of the Colorado Freedom Memorial; and

24 WHEREAS, The nonprofit Colorado Freedom Memorial
25 Foundation received its 501(c)3 designation from the IRS in June 2001
26 and began a fundraising campaign that continued for the next eleven
27 years; the first \$100 was raised during a Women Marines Association
28 Area 7 Conference at Paula Sarlls' home, attended by Aurora mayor Paul
29 Tauer; Rick Crandall; and Colorado Women's Hall of Fame member
30 Lieutenant General Carol Mutter; and

31 WHEREAS, During a live radio-thon on KEZW 1430 AM in May
32 2012, an anonymous donor contributed \$345,000, which provided enough
33 money to begin construction of the Colorado Freedom Memorial; and

34 WHEREAS, A groundbreaking ceremony for the Colorado

1 Freedom Memorial was held on February 2, 2013, a beautiful, sunny
2 Colorado winter morning; and

3 WHEREAS, In May 2013, the Colorado Freedom Memorial was
4 dedicated, with several thousand people in attendance; and

5 WHEREAS, Since then, thousands of Coloradans and visitors
6 from other states and nations have visited the Colorado Freedom
7 Memorial to locate the names of their lost warriors and to reflect on their
8 memories of their loved ones; and

9 WHEREAS, The Colorado Freedom Memorial has become a
10 gathering place for annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day
11 commemorations and other statewide veterans events; and

12 WHEREAS, The avenue that brings visitors to the Colorado
13 Freedom Memorial is a State Highway and is eligible to be named in
14 honor of our war veterans; now, therefore,

15 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*
16 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

17 (1) That the portion of East Sixth Avenue from the I-225
18 interchange to the E-470 interchange shall be renamed the "Colorado
19 Freedom Memorial Highway";

20 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
21 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial
22 placement of the two signs to mark East Sixth Avenue from the I-225
23 interchange to the E-470 interchange as the "Colorado Freedom Memorial
24 Highway"; and

25 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
26 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners of
27 Arapahoe County and the city of Aurora for the maintenance of the
28 markings for the Colorado Freedom Memorial Highway.

29 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
30 to Governor John Hickenlooper; Colonel John Wagner, Commander,
31 Buckley Air Force Base; Major General H. Michael Edwards, Adjutant
32 General of Colorado; Steve Hogan, Mayor of Aurora; the Aurora City
33 Council; the Board of County Commissioners of Arapahoe County; Pat

1 Smith, Adjutant of American Legion Department of Colorado; former
2 Aurora mayor Paul Tauer; Rick and Diane Crandall; Paula Sarlls,
3 President, Women Marines Association Colorado Columbine - WM
4 History Chapter; Lieutenant General Carol Mutter; the Veterans of
5 Foreign Wars Department of Colorado; the Wings Over the Rockies Air
6 and Space Museum; the Aurora History Museum; the History Colorado
7 Center; and Colorado's Congressional delegation.