



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 01-008

BY SENATOR(S) Epps, Arnold, Anderson, Andrews, Cairns, Dennis, Dyer (Arapahoe), Dyer (Durango), Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hernandez, Hillman, Lamborn, Linkhart, Matsunaka, May, McElhany, Musgrave, Nichol, Owen, Pascoe, Perlmutter, Phillips, Reeves, Takis, Tate, Taylor, Teck, Thiebaut, Tupa, and Windels;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Dean, Alexander, Bacon, Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Cadman, Chavez, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Daniel, Decker, Fairbank, Fritz, Garcia, Groff, Grossman, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Jameson, Johnson, Kester, King, Larson, Lawrence, Lee, Mace, Madden, Marshall, Miller, Mitchell, Nuñez, Paschall, Plant, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Rippey, Romanoff, Saliman, Sanchez, Schultheis, Scott, Sinclair, Smith, Snook, Spence, Spradley, Stafford, Stengel, Swenson, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, Vigil, Webster, Weddig, White, Williams, S., Williams, T., Witwer, Young.

CONCERNING THE COMMENDATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOR THE CAPTURE OF THE ESCAPED PRISONERS FROM TEXAS.

WHEREAS, The citizens of the state of Colorado owe a deep debt of gratitude to law enforcement officers across Colorado and the United States for their bravery and commitment to duty. As a result of this commitment to duty, seven dangerous criminals from Texas were captured after a six-week manhunt; and

WHEREAS, The seven dangerous criminals escaped from a Texas prison on December 13, 2000. Soon after, on Christmas eve, they committed a violent robbery in Irving, Texas, killing Police Officer Aubrey Hawkins; and

WHEREAS, The "Texas Seven" escapees fled to Colorado, bringing with them their extensive arsenal of stolen firearms, and hid out in the peaceful community of Woodland Park; and

WHEREAS, Colorado State Patrol Trooper Jason Manspeaker made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty when his patrol car crashed while he was investigating a lead in the case of the escaped fugitives; and

WHEREAS, Alert and community-minded citizens precipitated the capture of the escapees by providing the tip to officials that led law enforcement officers to the fugitives' hideout; and

WHEREAS, Despite knowledge that the escapees were armed and very violent, law enforcement officers placed themselves in an extremely dangerous situation, risking their lives in order to apprehend the fugitives; and

WHEREAS, The capture of the "Texas Seven" in Colorado was accomplished without a shot being fired by law enforcement officers and without loss of life or injury or property damage to the citizens of the state of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, The extensive manhunt involved brave law enforcement officers throughout Colorado and the United States, including members of the Teller County Sheriff's Office, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Woodland Park Police Department, the Colorado Springs Police Department, the Colorado State Patrol, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Marshals, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; now, therefore,

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

(1) That the men and women of law enforcement who participated in the capture of the "Texas Seven" escapees be commended for their bravery and professionalism.

(2) That all other law enforcement officers who risk their lives for the protection of the citizens of this state and this country be paid the highest honor.

(3) That Officer Aubrey Hawkins and Trooper Jason Manspeaker be recognized and remembered for their sacrifice and commitment to duty.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the families of Officer Aubrey Hawkins and Trooper Jason Manspeaker.

Stan Matsunaka
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Doug Dean
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Judith Rodrigue
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED _____