



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-1013

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Ortiz and Lynch, Amabile, Bacon, Benavidez, Bennett, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bradfield, Caraveo, Carver, Catlin, Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Hanks, Herod, Holtorf, Hooton, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Larson, Lentine, Luck, McCluskie, McCormick, McKean, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Neville, Pelton, Pico, Ransom, Rich, Ricks, Roberts, Sandridge, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Beber, Van Winkle, Weissman, Will, Williams, Woodrow, Woog, Young, Garnett, Baisley, Jackson; also SENATOR(S) Garcia and Gardner, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cooke, Coram, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hisey, Holbert, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundein, Moreno, Pettersen, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Simpson, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger.

CONCERNING HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE TO OUR NATION IN RECOGNITION OF MEMORIAL DAY.

WHEREAS, Brave Americans from all walks of life, all corners of this nation, and some from around the world have fought, sacrificed, and died in service to this nation since its founding; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day has various origins from our Civil War. On May 1, 1865, more than 1,000 Black Americans recently freed from enslavement, accompanied by regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops, including the Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment and a handful of White Charlestonians, gathered in a POW camp in Charleston, South Carolina, to consecrate a new proper burial site for the over 250 Union soldiers who died in the POW camp singing hymns, reading scripture, and distributing flowers around the cemetery, which they dedicated to the "Martyrs of the Race Course"; and

WHEREAS, In May 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander in chief of the Union veterans group known as the "Grand Army of the Republic", issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide day of commemoration for the more than 620,000 soldiers killed in the recently ended Civil War, and should be known as Decoration Day, where Americans lay flowers and decorate the graves of those who died in the war; and

WHEREAS, Decoration Day continued until after World War I when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, Congress passed the "Uniform Monday Holiday Act", which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May, with the changes going into effect in 1971, officially declaring Memorial Day a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, More than 1.1 million Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice and have been killed in all U.S. wars, including well over 3,000 Coloradans; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, honor and commemorate those service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to a grateful nation by taking a moment of silence to reflect on the lives lost, on how their sacrifices have shaped this nation and have allowed us the freedom and privilege to serve in this great body, and on the friends and family who were left behind by the sacrifices of those brave men and women.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the commanders of the American Legion posts in Colorado; the commanders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in Colorado; the commanders of Colorado's active military bases; the U.S. Air Force Academy; the Pikes Peak Chapter of Gold Star Mothers; the Denver

Chapter of Gold Star Wives; the chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of Colorado; the Colorado Fallen Heroes Memorial Organization; Buffalo Soldiers Foundation and the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation.

Alec Garnett
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Leroy M. Garcia
PRESIDENT OF
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