



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1019

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Wist and Bridges, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Neville P., Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Reyher, Roberts, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winkler, Winter, Young, Duran; also SENATOR(S) Tate and Moreno, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF ARAPAHOE ROAD FROM INTERSTATE 25 TO PARKER ROAD IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY AS THE "SARDARAPAT ARMENIAN MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".

WHEREAS, This year marks the 103rd anniversary of the first genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian genocide, when 1.5 million men, women, and children of Armenian descent were victims of a brutal genocide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; and

WHEREAS, Three years after the genocide's commencement, in May 1918 a group of genocide survivors, alongside Armenian forces, fought the larger Ottoman Turkish army to a standstill at Sardarapat at the foot of Mt. Ararat, a heroic sacrifice that paved the way to the Republic of Armenia; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of the Republic of Armenia through the Battle of Sardarapat enabled the Congressionally-sanctioned Near East Relief, which housed a regional headquarters in Denver, to optimize its nationwide fundraising that ultimately saved 132,000 Armenian genocide orphans; and

WHEREAS, Sardarapat is considered by many Americans of Armenian descent as the pivotal event in saving the last remnants of their ancient homeland and has been depicted in arts and literature alike, including in the works of American abstractionist Zareh Maranian, formerly of Colorado Springs; and

WHEREAS, The Armenian victory at Sardarapat is a universal inspiration to fight for one's rights, without reliance on others, even when facing the worst imaginable conditions for survival; and

WHEREAS, In February 1921, the Colorado General Assembly expressed unanimous support for "Armenia, the oldest Christian nation and most martyred of the allies in the World War"; and

WHEREAS, This legislative body has recognized April 24 through numerous joint resolutions such as "Colorado Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide" and authorized the 2015 improvements to the Capitol grounds' Armenian Genocide Memorial Garden, including the addition of a Khachkar monument; and

WHEREAS, It is the purpose of this Joint Resolution to keep the memory of Sardarapat alive so that Coloradans, whose predecessors generously aided the Armenian relief efforts, can be inspired by the heroic victory against all odds; now, therefore,

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

(1) That a portion of Arapahoe Road from Interstate 25 to Parker Road in Arapahoe County be named the "Sardarapat Armenian Memorial Highway" in honor of Armenian Genocide survivors' valiant contributions in creating the independent Republic of Armenia one hundred years ago;

(2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept and expend gifts, grants, donations, and federal funds for the purposes of the initial placement of signs to mark the designated section of Arapahoe Road in Centennial, Colorado, as the "Sardarapat Armenian Memorial Highway"; and

(3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore a cooperative agreement with the appropriate authorities of Arapahoe County for the maintenance of the markings for the "Sardarapat Armenian Memorial Highway".

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Transportation Commission of Colorado, the Office of Transportation Safety within the Colorado Department of Transportation, the joint Sardarapat Memorial Committee of the Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region's Colorado Office, and Armenians of Colorado, Inc.

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE