

Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R18-1254.01 Cara Meeker x2044

SJR18-011

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Grantham and Crowder,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Reyher,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-011

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE PORTION OF COLORADO**
102 **STATE HIGHWAY 50 FROM THE TOWN OF SWINK TO THE CITY OF**
103 **LA JUNTA AS THE "SSG BRIAN COWDREY MEMORIAL**
104 **HIGHWAY".**

1 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Robert B. "Brian" Cowdrey was born
2 on May 26, 1972, in La Junta, Colorado; and

3 WHEREAS, SSG Cowdrey graduated from La Junta High School
4 in 1990 and married the love of his life and high school sweetheart,
5 Kimberly Jill; and

6 WHEREAS, SSG Cowdrey enlisted in the United States Army in
7 2003 and was deployed one year later to Iraq where he worked at Abu
8 Ghraib prison; and

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 WHEREAS, While serving in Iraq, SSG Cowdrey found his
2 calling as a flight medic, completed his training in 2006, and was
3 assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd
4 Airborne Division, in Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

5 WHEREAS, SSG Cowdrey's crew was part of the All-American
6 DUSTOFF MEDEVAC Company, which stands for "Dedicated
7 Unhesitating Service To Our Fighting Forces, Medical Evacuation
8 Missions", and which is known for providing helicopter aeromedical
9 evacuation from the battlefield; and

10 WHEREAS, SSG Cowdrey would go on to earn several awards
11 and commendations for his long tenure of service in combat, including a
12 Combat Action Badge, a NATO Medal, a Humanitarian Service Medal,
13 a Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters; and

14 WHEREAS, Those who knew SSG Cowdrey describe a man
15 dedicated to his wife and sons, who was steadfast in his "hard right over
16 easy wrong" mentality, and who loved hunting, the outdoors, and being
17 a foster family for German Shepherds; and

18 WHEREAS, SSG Cowdrey was a natural leader and teacher whose
19 tough demeanor as a trainer of platoon soldiers earned the respect of
20 those he worked with; and

21 WHEREAS, On October 13, 2011, during his fourth deployment,
22 SSG Cowdrey's medical unit responded to an urgent call from an
23 observational post in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, that was under heavy
24 enemy fire; and

25 WHEREAS, Despite quickly deteriorating weather conditions and
26 the rugged terrain, SSG Cowdrey and his crew members were able to
27 balance their Black Hawk helicopter along a steep mountainside, jump
28 out, and recover two critically wounded soldiers; and

29 WHEREAS, SSG Cowdrey then asked permission to leave the
30 helicopter again to retrieve more wounded soldiers, but upon returning
31 with another patient, SSG Cowdrey was struck and killed instantly by one
32 of the helicopter's rotor blades as he pushed the patient to safety; and

33 WHEREAS, SSG Cowdrey gave his life in the service of others,

1 and his sacrifice to his country should be remembered; and

2 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we honor the life and valor of such a
3 hero, so devoted to family and country, and who saved countless lives
4 directly in the line of duty and also by training others to do the same;
5 now, therefore,

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

8 (1) That the portion of Colorado State Highway 50 from the town
9 of Swink to the city of La Junta be designated as the "SSG Brian
10 Cowdrey Memorial Highway";

11 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
12 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial
13 placement of signs at the boundaries of the town of Swink and the city of
14 La Junta for the "SSG Brian Cowdrey Memorial Highway"; and

15 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
16 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for
17 Otero County for the maintenance of the markings for the "SSG Brian
18 Cowdrey Memorial Highway".

19 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
20 to Jill Cowdrey, Justin and Stacie Cowdrey, Nathan Cowdrey, Jacob and
21 Fallon Cowdrey, Jay and Cathy Bollacker, Jim and April Faull, Quentin
22 and Jen Cowdrey, Donna Faull and Cathy Peterson, and William and
23 Kaysie Schmidt.