



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-011

BY SENATOR(S) Grantham and Crowder, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Reyher, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, 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, Roberts, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winkler, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, While serving in Iraq, SSG Cowdrey found his calling

as a flight medic, completed his training in 2006, and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, in Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, SSG Cowdrey gave his life in the service of others, and his sacrifice to his country should be remembered; and

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

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

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

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

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

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Jill Cowdrey, Justin and Stacie Cowdrey, Nathan Cowdrey, Jacob and

Fallon Cowdrey, Jay and Cathy Bollacker, Jim and April Faull, Quentin and Jen Cowdrey, Donna Faull and Cathy Peterson, and William and Kaysie Schmidt.

Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES