

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R18-1256.01 Vanessa Cleaver x4636

**SJR18-013**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Grantham and Crowder,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lewis,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-013**

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF HIGHWAY 207 BETWEEN**  
102 **MANZANOLA, COLORADO, AND CROWLEY, COLORADO, AS THE**  
103 **"SGT. MARY RICARD MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".**

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1 WHEREAS, Mary Katherine Ricard was born on December 25,  
2 1956, in Mountain Home, Idaho, to James and Geraldine Leidal; and

3 WHEREAS, On November 28, 1984, Sgt. Ricard married Timothy  
4 Ricard and united their four children, Katherine, Jack, Benjamin, and  
5 Joseph; and

6 WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard was described as being a small package  
7 with boundless energy and a strong work ethic, and her family often  
8 referred to her as "5 foot 4 inches of dynamite"; 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, Sgt. Ricard had many hobbies, including spinning  
2 wool, weaving, and knitting, so skilled that she knitted angora wool baby  
3 booties for several of her grandchildren from wool she spun from the  
4 rabbits she raised; and

5           WHEREAS, In addition to raising rabbits, Sgt. Ricard raised  
6 chickens, sheep, and geese and occasionally horses, pigs, and an emu, but  
7 her prized pet was her tiny poodle Joshua, who her kids lovingly referred  
8 to as "little brother"; and

9           WHEREAS, Among her many talents, Sgt. Ricard also loved to  
10 sew and every year sewed pajamas for her family, a tradition started by  
11 her grandmother on a farm in Minnesota where she often spent her  
12 summers; and

13           WHEREAS, An accomplished cook, Sgt. Ricard worked for  
14 Copper Mountain for a total of sixteen years, fourteen of which she  
15 worked in the pastry kitchen, and rose up through the ranks due to her  
16 diligence and strong work ethic to become its pastry chef for her last two  
17 years there; and

18           WHEREAS, In her mid-forties, Sgt. Ricard was determined to  
19 work with inmates and felt it was her religious calling to help prisoners,  
20 so she gave up her career as a pastry chef to become a corrections officer;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, From 2003 to 2007, Sgt. Ricard was proud to work  
23 as a corrections officer at Buena Vista Correctional Facility and was later  
24 transferred to Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility in Crowley,  
25 Colorado; and

26           WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard shared her passion for baking with the  
27 inmates and spent a lot of time teaching them basic baking skills that they  
28 could apply once out in the real world; and

29           WHEREAS, On September 24, 2012, Sgt. Ricard, while in the  
30 kitchen area during breakfast preparation with another corrections  
31 sergeant, was violently attacked by an inmate; and

32           WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard succumbed to her wounds and died; and

33           WHEREAS, Tony Carochi, director of prison operations for the

1 Colorado Department of Corrections, said Sgt. Ricard wanted to make a  
2 difference and change people's lives: "In all things, Mary gave us  
3 kindness, honesty, and, above all, courage."; and

4 WHEREAS, Governor John Hickenlooper shared that sentiment,  
5 stating, "[Sgt. Ricard] was a believer. She believed in people, and that  
6 every soul, no matter how far off the track, can be redeemed."; and

7 WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard loved people, and dedicating her life to  
8 helping those around her meant so much to her; now, therefore,

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

11 (1) That Highway 207, between Manzanola, Colorado, and  
12 Crowley, Colorado, be renamed the "Sgt. Mary Ricard Memorial  
13 Highway";

14 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept  
15 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial  
16 placement of the two signs to mark Highway 207 as the "Sgt. Mary  
17 Ricard Memorial Highway"; and

18 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore  
19 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for  
20 Otero and Crowley Counties for the maintenance of the markings for the  
21 "Sgt. Mary Ricard Memorial Highway".

22 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
23 to Sgt. Mary Ricard's husband Timothy Ricard; daughter Katherine  
24 Smith; sons Jack Benson, Benjamin Ricard, and Joseph Benson; Thomas  
25 and Jean Ricard; father James Leidal; and Department of Corrections  
26 Executive Director Rick Raemisch.