SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-013

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

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

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

3 WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard was described as being a small package with boundless energy and a strong work ethic, and her family often 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.
WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard had many hobbies, including spinning
wool, weaving, and knitting, so skilled that she knitted angora wool baby
boots for several of her grandchildren from wool she spun from the
rabbits she raised; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Tony Carochi, director of prison operations for the
Colorado Department of Corrections, said Sgt. Ricard wanted to make a
difference and change people's lives: "In all things, Mary gave us
kindness, honesty, and, above all, courage."; and

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

WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard loved people, and dedicating her life to
helping those around her meant so much to her; 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 Highway 207, between Manzanola, Colorado, and
Crowley, Colorado, be renamed the "Sgt. Mary Ricard 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 the two signs to mark Highway 207 as the "Sgt. Mary
Ricard Memorial Highway"; and

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

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