

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R20-1178.01 Ashley Athey x2291

**SJR20-023**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lundeen,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20-023**

101      **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE INTERSTATE 25 BRIDGE OVER**  
102                    **17TH AVENUE AS THE "RICHARD "RJ" LAWRENCE BRIDGE".**

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1            WHEREAS, Richard "RJ" Lawrence was president and CEO of  
2      Lawrence Construction, a family-owned company founded in 1924 and  
3      headquartered in Littleton, Colorado; and

4            WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was a fourth generation Coloradan,  
5      born in Denver, Colorado, to Earl Roger Lawrence and Betty Jo Otto  
6      Lawrence along with siblings Barbara Jo and William Roger; and

7            WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence graduated from Arapahoe High School  
8      in 1974 and graduated from Colorado State University and earned his  
9      professional engineering license in 1984; 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, In 1982, RJ Lawrence married Polly Petersen and  
2 they had two children, Anne Kathleen Lawrence and Scott Roger  
3 Lawrence; and

4           WHEREAS, In 1995, RJ Lawrence took over managing the  
5 company full time and worked both in the field and with design partners  
6 to ensure the best outcomes for construction projects; and

7           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was the President of the Colorado  
8 Contractors Associations in 2011 and was the Colorado Contractor of the  
9 Year in 2013; and

10           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence successfully pioneered fast-track and  
11 design-build technologies that have been well-received in the construction  
12 industry; and

13           WHEREAS, Lawrence Construction often worked on notable  
14 projects in Colorado, including the Interstate 25 bridge over 17th Avenue;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, This bridge, sometimes called "Bronco Bridge",  
17 showcases value-engineered pre-cast concrete arches honoring the history  
18 of the original steel arches; and

19           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence pioneered pre-cast, pre-stressed curved  
20 U-tub girders to enhance bridge design and construction; and

21           WHEREAS, The E-470 "flyover" bridge was the first in the world  
22 to have pre-cast curved U-tub girders spliced on the ground and set on  
23 piers; and

24           WHEREAS, The pre-stressed curved U-tub girders used to build  
25 the elevated interchange in Trinidad, Colorado, were the first in the  
26 world; and

27           WHEREAS, When RJ Lawrence proposed building curved  
28 pre-cast, pre-stressed U-tub girders, he was told it couldn't be done, and  
29 he proved them wrong through engineering; and

30           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was known for his saying, "You can't  
31 hardly"; and

1           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was a pioneer for Colorado's highways  
2 and infrastructure. He was a contractor who inspired innovation through  
3 outside-the-box ideas that have helped to drive Colorado's infrastructure  
4 to new levels. RJ's ideas have shown what is possible in Colorado heavy  
5 civil construction and beyond; and

6           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was always proud to be a Colorado  
7 contractor and built some of Colorado's best infrastructure projects; now,  
8 therefore,

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

12           (1) That the Interstate 25 bridge over 17th Avenue be officially  
13 designated as the "Richard "RJ" Lawrence Bridge";

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 signs on either side of the bridge for the "Richard "RJ"  
17 Lawrence Bridge"; and

18           (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore  
19 a cooperative agreement with the city and county of Denver for the  
20 maintenance of the markings for the "Richard "RJ" Lawrence Bridge".

21           *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
22 to his wife, Polly Lawrence; his children Anne Lawrence and Scott  
23 Lawrence; his siblings Barbara Jo Hadley and William Roger Lawrence;  
24 and Lawrence Construction.