



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-016

BY SENATOR(S) Lundeen and Winter, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cooke, Coram, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hisey, Holbert, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Woodward, Scott, Zenzinger;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gray, Arndt, Baisley, Bird, Bockenfeld, Bradfield, Caraveo, Catlin, Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Froelich, Geitner, Hanks, Herod, Holtorf, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Larson, Lontine, Lynch, McCormick, McKean, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ortiz, Pelton, Pico, Rich, Roberts, Sandridge, Soper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Beber, Van Winkle, Weissman, Will, Woodrow, Woog, Young, Bacon, Benavidez, Bernett, Boesenecker, Carver, Exum, Hooton, Jackson, McCluskie, McLachlan, Ransom, Ricks, Snyder, Garnett.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence graduated from Arapahoe High School in 1974, graduated from Colorado State University in 1978, and earned his professional engineering license in 1984; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, RJ Lawrence married Polly Petersen and they had two children, Anne Kathleen Lawrence and Scott Roger Lawrence;

and

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

WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was the President of the Colorado Contractors Association in 2011 and was the Colorado Contractor of the Year in 2013, and he was a founding member of the Rocky Mountain Minority Contractor Association to help the industry be more inclusive; and

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

WHEREAS, In 1996, he pioneered the 48-hour bridge: Using pre-cast concrete to replace a bridge over Mitchell Gulch in Douglas County in 48 hours; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Construction often worked on notable projects in Colorado, including environmental reclamation work and the Interstate 25 bridge over 17th Avenue; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was the first to build U-tub girder bridges for the Nevada/Tejon interchange in Colorado Springs, saving the state hundreds of thousands of dollars on the project; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial placement of signs on either side of the bridge for the "Richard "RJ" Lawrence Bridge"; and

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

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to his wife, Polly Lawrence; his children Anne Lawrence and Scott Lawrence; his siblings Barbara Jo Hadley and William Roger Lawrence; Lawrence Construction; Greg Rees, designer of Bronco Bridge; the City

of Trinidad; the Las Animas County Commissioners, the Colorado Contractors Association, and John Elway, President of Football Operations for the Denver Broncos.

Leroy M. Garcia
PRESIDENT OF
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