

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R22-0829.01 Jessica Chapman x4636

HJR22-1008

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ortiz and Holtorf,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rodriguez and Moreno,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1008

101 CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINA AND
102 LATINO VETERANS.

1 WHEREAS, Being a diverse group with a shared history and
2 culture that identifies as Latino, Hispanic, and Chicano, among many
3 other shared identities, including many faiths, orientations, and all gender
4 identities, who have fought in support of the United States and the cause
5 of freedom in every American conflict since the American Revolution,
6 when Colonel Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish governor of the Louisiana
7 territories, and his men assisted General George Washington and the
8 Continental Army in defeating the British forces that were advancing into
9 the then-southwestern U.S. territories; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite 150 years of fighting with distinction in
11 support of the United States, it was not until World War II that Latina/o

*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 service members became a truly forceful presence; it is estimated that
2 nearly 500,000 Latina/o Americans, often the children of immigrants who
3 entered the United States in previous decades, fought for the cause of
4 freedom in that war, including the 158th Regimental Combat Team and
5 the 141st Infantry Regiment, which consisted of all Spanish-speaking
6 soldiers; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1948, Dr. Hector Garcia, of Corpus Christi, Texas,
8 founded the American GI Forum as a means of addressing cases in which
9 Latina/o veterans were being denied services by the United States
10 Department of Veterans Affairs under the GI Bill, including educational,
11 medical, housing, and other basic benefits; Dr. Garcia and the American
12 GI Forum worked diligently to secure equal access to all benefits, and in
13 1984, Dr. Garcia was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by
14 President Ronald Reagan; and

15 WHEREAS, In the Korean War, the all-Puerto Rican 65th Infantry
16 Regiment, also known as "the Borinqueneers", served three years in
17 service in the mountainous terrain of Pusan, Korea, and for their efforts
18 were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit
19 Commendation, and two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations;
20 in 2016, the unit was recognized with a Congressional Gold Medal; and

21 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War, in which more than 80,000
22 Latina/o service members served, 13 of whom were awarded the
23 Congressional Medal of Honor; many of these Latina/o soldiers were
24 drawn to the military by the opportunity to transcend their working-class
25 roots and by the opportunity afforded them by the GI Bill; and

26 WHEREAS, In total, 61 Latina/o veterans have been awarded the
27 Congressional Medal of Honor for their service in the United States
28 Armed Forces; and

29 WHEREAS, More than 156,000 Latina/o service members are
30 currently active duty members of the Armed Forces, and more than 1.2
31 million Latina/o veterans call the United States home; now, therefore,

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

34 That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize and
35 commend the efforts and sacrifice of the millions of Latina/o men and

1 women who have served the cause of freedom in and alongside the
2 Armed Forces of the United States.

3 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
4 to the American GI Forum of Colorado.