

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R22-0875.01 Ashley Athey x2291

HJR22-1019

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Van Beber and Holtorf,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sonnenberg and Cooke,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1019

101 CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF COLORADO STATE
102 HIGHWAY 85 AS THE "PVT. JOE P. MARTINEZ MEMORIAL
103 HIGHWAY".

1 WHEREAS, Joseph "Joe" P. Martinez was born in Taos, New
2 Mexico, in 1920 to Jose Manuel Martinez and Maria Eduvigen Romo;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In 1927, when Joe was 7 years old, his parents moved
5 the family to Ault, Colorado; and

6 WHEREAS, Joe Martinez was drafted into the United States Army
7 in 1942 at the age of 22, and he shipped off to Camp Roberts in
8 California for basic training; 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, Upon completing his training, Pvt. Martinez was
2 assigned to Company K, 32nd Infantry, 7th Infantry Division. The 7th
3 Infantry Division was part of the force that landed at Attu in the Aleutian
4 Islands of Alaska; and

5 WHEREAS, The Japanese invaded the Aleutian Islands in June
6 1942, the first time American soil had been invaded by a foreign power
7 since the War of 1812, and held a key defensive position in the
8 snow-covered mountains between East Arm Holtz Bay and Chichagof
9 Harbor; and

10 WHEREAS, On May 26, 1943, after repeated efforts to drive the
11 enemy back, troop dispositions were readjusted, and a trial coordinated
12 attack by a reinforced battalion was launched; and

13 WHEREAS, In the face of severe hostile machine gun, rifle, and
14 mortar fire, Pvt. Martinez, an automatic rifleman, rose to his feet and
15 resumed his advance, occasionally stopping to urge his comrades on; and

16 WHEREAS, After a most difficult climb, Pvt. Martinez eliminated
17 resistance from part of the enemy position by Browning Automatic Rifle
18 Fire (BAR) fire and hand grenades, but this success only partially
19 completed the action; and

20 WHEREAS, The main Holtz-Chichagof Pass rose about 150 feet
21 higher, flanked by steep rocky ridges, and passage was barred by enemy
22 fire from either flank and from tiers of snow trenches in front; and

23 WHEREAS, Despite these obstacles, and knowing of their
24 existence, Pvt. Martinez again led the troops on and up, personally
25 silencing several trenches with BAR fire and ultimately reaching the pass
26 itself; and

27 WHEREAS, Just below the rim of the pass, Pvt. Martinez
28 encountered a final enemy-occupied trench and, as he engaged in firing
29 into it, he was mortally wounded; and

30 WHEREAS, The pass, however, was taken, and its capture was a
31 key victory in defeating and driving the Japanese from United States soil;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Pvt. Joe Martinez was posthumously awarded the

1 Medal of Honor, the first Hispanic American to have received that award;
2 now, therefore,

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

5 (1) That the portion of Colorado State Highway 85 from the
6 intersection of Colorado State Highway 85 and 1st Street in Ault to the
7 intersection of Colorado State Highway 85 and E Main Avenue in Pierce
8 be designated as the "Pvt. Joe P. Martinez Memorial Highway".

9 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
10 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of the initial
11 placement of signs to mark Colorado State Highway 85 from the
12 intersection of Colorado State Highway 85 and 1st Street in Ault to the
13 intersection of Colorado State Highway 85 and E Main Avenue in Pierce
14 as the "Pvt. Joe P. Martinez Memorial Highway".

15 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
16 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for
17 Weld County for the maintenance of the signs marking the "Pvt. Joe P.
18 Martinez Memorial Highway".

19 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
20 to members of Pvt. Joe Martinez's family: Christopher Martinez, Julia
21 Patterson, Frances Salmeron, Susan Gonzales, Mary Taylor, and Gary and
22 Vicki Vigil.