



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1019

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Van Beber and Holtorf, Amabile, Bacon, Baisley, Benavidez, Bernett, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bradfield, Caraveo, Carver, Catlin, Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Hanks, Herod, Hooton, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Larson, Lindsay, Lontine, Luck, Lynch, McCluskie, McCormick, McKean, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Neville, Ortiz, Pico, Ransom, Rich, Ricks, Roberts, Sandridge, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Winkle, Weissman, Will, Williams, Woodrow, Woog, Young, Garnett;

also SENATOR(S) Sonnenberg and Cooke, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Coram, Danielson, Donovan, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Hisey, Holbert, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Simpson, Smallwood, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Fenberg.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Joe Martinez was drafted into the United States Army in 1942 at the age of 22, and he shipped off to Camp Roberts in California for basic training; and

WHEREAS, Upon completing his training, Pvt. Martinez was assigned to Company K, 32nd Infantry, 7th Infantry Division. The 7th

Infantry Division was part of the force that landed at Attu in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Pvt. Joe Martinez was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the first Hispanic American to have received that award; now, therefore,

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

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

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

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

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

Alec Garnett
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE