

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R23-0832.01 Jessica Chapman x4636

HJR23-1010

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Martinez and Ortiz,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rodriguez and Pelton B.,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-1010

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

1 WHEREAS, A diverse group with a shared history and culture that
2 identifies as Latina/o, Hispanic, and Chicano, among many other shared
3 identities, including many faiths, orientations, and all gender identities
4 has fought in support of the United States and the cause of freedom in
5 every American conflict since the American Revolution when Colonel
6 Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish governor of the Louisiana territories,
7 and his men assisted General George Washington and the Continental
8 Army in defeating the British forces that were advancing into the
9 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 law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

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,
5 nicknamed the "Bushmasters", and Company E of the 141st Infantry
6 Regiment, which consisted entirely of Mexican-American soldiers; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1948, Mexican-American Dr. Hector Garcia
8 founded the American GI Forum to ensure educational, medical, housing,
9 and other benefits and services for Latina/o veterans; Dr. Garcia and the
10 American GI Forum worked diligently to secure equal access to all
11 benefits, and in 1984, Dr. Garcia was the first Mexican-American to
12 receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

13 WHEREAS, In the Korean War, the all-Puerto Rican 65th Infantry
14 Regiment, also known as "the Borinqueneers", served with utmost
15 distinction and valor, and for their efforts were awarded two Presidential
16 Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and two Republic of
17 Korea Presidential Unit Citations; in 2014, the unit was recognized with
18 a Congressional Gold Medal; and

19 WHEREAS, In the Vietnam War, in which more than 80,000
20 Latina/o service members served, 22 were awarded the Congressional
21 Medal of Honor; and

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

25 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 Latina/o service members are
26 currently active duty members of the Armed Forces, and more than 1.4
27 million Latina/o veterans call the United States home; now, therefore,

28 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
29 *Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate*
30 *concurring herein:*

31 That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize and
32 commend the efforts and sacrifice of the millions of Latinas/os who have
33 served the cause of freedom as part of the Armed Forces of the United
34 States.

1 *Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be
2 sent to the American GI Forum of Colorado.