



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-1010

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Martinez and Ortiz, Amabile, Armagost, Bacon, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bottoms, Bradfield, Bradley, Brown, Catlin, Daugherty, DeGraaf, deGruy Kennedy, Dickson, Duran, English, Evans, Frizell, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Hartsook, Holtorf, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Luck, Lukens, Lynch, Mabrey, Marshall, Mauro, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Parenti, Pugliese, Ricks, Sharbini, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Vigil, Weinberg, Weissman, Willford, Wilson, Woodrow, Young, McCluskie;
also SENATOR(S) Rodriguez and Pelton B., Baisley, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lundeen, Marchman, Moreno, Mullica, Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Simpson, Smallwood, Van Winkle, Will, Winter F., Zenzinger, Fenberg.

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINA AND LATINO VETERANS.

WHEREAS, A diverse group with a shared history and culture that identifies as Latina/o, Hispanic, and Chicano, among many other shared identities, including many faiths, orientations, and all gender identities has fought in support of the United States and the cause of freedom in every American conflict since the American Revolution when Colonel Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish governor of the Louisiana territories, and his men assisted General George Washington and the Continental Army in defeating the British forces that were advancing into the then-southwestern U.S. territories; and

WHEREAS, Despite 150 years of fighting with distinction in support of the United States, it was not until World War II that Latina/o service members became a truly forceful presence; it is estimated that nearly 500,000 Latina/o Americans, often the children of immigrants who entered the United States in previous decades, fought for the cause of freedom in that war, including the 158th Regimental Combat Team, nicknamed the "Bushmasters", and Company E of the 141st Infantry Regiment, which consisted entirely of Mexican-American soldiers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize and commend the efforts and sacrifice of the millions of Latinas/os who have

served the cause of freedom as part of the Armed Forces of the United States.

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

Julie McCluskie
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