

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

REVISED

LLS NO. R23-0832.01 Jessica Chapman x4636

HJR23-1010

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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.

SENATE
Final Reading
February 13, 2023

HOUSE
Final Reading
February 10, 2023

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.