

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R23-0826.01 Asia Merrill x4829

HJR23-1017

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-1017

101 **CONCERNING HONORING THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION OF**
102 **COLORADO.**

1 WHEREAS, Tucked in a high mountain valley south of Minturn
2 in Eagle County, Colorado, Camp Hale was the home base for the
3 renowned World War II 10th Mountain Division, an elite U.S. Army
4 mountain warfare unit; and

5 WHEREAS, Comprised of thousands of troops who trained
6 intensely to acquire rock climbing, skiing, and other vital mountaineering
7 skills necessary to battle within harsh high-altitude winter conditions,
8 Camp Hale served as a specialized military training site to prepare
9 soldiers for combat against European Axis forces in mountainous and
10 arctic conditions during World War II; and

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 WHEREAS, The severe winters and rugged terrain at Camp Hale
2 helped prepare the 10th Mountain Division's skiing soldiers for their
3 brave battles in the northern Italian Alps, including a particular battle in
4 February 1945 when thousands of 10th Mountain Division soldiers
5 silently scaled the steep Riva Ridge in Italy and prevented Germans from
6 using the precipice to survey U.S. forces below and then, the next day,
7 joined a successful assault on Mount Belvedere, an Axis stronghold in
8 Italy's Northern Apennines, during which hundreds of 10th Mountain
9 Division soldiers perished; and

10 WHEREAS, The 10th Mountain Division soldiers fought tirelessly
11 in Italy and central Europe until Germany's final surrender in 1945 and
12 then returned to the United States, where the division was demobilized
13 and inactivated on November 20, 1945, at Camp Carson, Colorado; and

14 WHEREAS, The 10th Mountain Division soldiers who trained at
15 Camp Hale during World War II not only distinguished themselves
16 internationally for their bravery but also brought worldwide attention to
17 Colorado's unique climate and geography for specialized military training;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, While the 10th Mountain Division has changed in its
20 purpose to reflect the unique military needs of our country following
21 World War II, the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division deserves
22 protection and tribute; we, the Seventy-fourth General Assembly,
23 recognize the hard work and remarkable bravery needed to protect the
24 United States and its beleaguered World War II Allies from enemy forces;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Many veterans of the 10th Mountain Division
27 dedicated the rest of their lives to the conservation of Camp Hale and the
28 Tenmile Range area after World War II, creating the 10th Mountain
29 Division Hut Association. The association works to preserve 30 huts,
30 which allow visitors to experience the land and conditions as the 10th
31 Mountain Division did over 80 years ago; and

32 WHEREAS, In a historic act that speaks to the 10th Mountain
33 Division's valuable role in American history, President Joseph R. Biden,
34 Jr. used his powers granted pursuant to the federal Antiquities Act for the
35 first time during his administration to declare Camp Hale the Camp
36 Hale-Continental Divide National Monument on October 12, 2022,
37 thereby protecting both the natural environment and the state heritage

1 interwoven with the area; and

2 WHEREAS, President Biden's proclamation of Camp Hale as a
3 national monument ensures the preservation of the veterans' post-war
4 effort and the memory of their heroic actions; thanks to the 10th
5 Mountain Division Hut Association, visitors can now ski a mile in the
6 division's shoes and enjoy the training facilities recreationally; and

7 WHEREAS, The Camp Hale-Continental Divide National
8 Monument will serve as a reminder of the 10th Mountain Division and
9 their sacrifice for generations to come; now, therefore,

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

13 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby
14 memorialize the 10th Mountain Division and declare our appreciation for
15 the newly designated Camp Hale-Continental Divide National
16 Monument.

17 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
18 to the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, the 10th Mountain Division
19 Hut Association, the 10th Mountain Division at the U.S. Army Fort
20 Drum, the Colorado Snowsports Museum, the Eagle County Board of
21 Commissioners, the Summit County Board of Commissioners, the Lake
22 County Board of Commissioners, Senator Michael Bennet, Senator John
23 Hickenlooper, Representative Joe Neguse, and Representative Brittany
24 Pettersen.