

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R24-1018.01 Jessica Chapman x4636

HJR24-1015

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Rutinel and Evans, Ortiz

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rodriguez and Pelton B.,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24-1015

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

1 WHEREAS, A diverse group with shared history and culture that
2 identifies as Latina/o, Hispanic, and Chicana/o, among 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; and

6 WHEREAS, During the Revolutionary War, Colonel Bernardo de
7 Galvez, the Spanish governor of the Louisiana territories, and his men
8 helped General George Washington and the Continental Army defeat the
9 British forces advancing into the then-southwestern U.S. territories; and

10 WHEREAS, In the 150 years following the American Revolution,

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 Latina/o service members fought with distinction in support of the United
2 States in conflicts including the Spanish-American War and World War
3 I. During World War II, Latina/o contributions in the Armed Forces
4 increased extraordinarily; and

5 WHEREAS, Nearly 500,000 Latina/o Americans, many of them
6 women and the children of immigrants, fought for the cause of freedom
7 in World War II, among them the 158th Regimental Combat Team,
8 nicknamed the "Bushmasters", and Company E of the 141st Infantry
9 Regiment, which consisted entirely of Mexican-American soldiers; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1948, in the aftermath of World War II, Dr. Hector
11 Garcia founded the American GI Forum to ensure educational, medical,
12 housing, and other benefits and services for Latina/o veterans. Dr. Garcia
13 and the American GI Forum worked diligently to secure equal access to
14 benefits, and in 1984, Dr. Garcia was the first Mexican American to
15 receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

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

22 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, more than 80,000 Latina/o
23 service members served, 22 of whom were awarded the Congressional
24 Medal of Honor; Latinas/os have also served the United States in the War
25 on Terror, Gulf Wars, and elsewhere; and

26 WHEREAS, In total, 61 Latina/o veterans have been awarded the
27 Congressional Medal of Honor for service in the United States Armed
28 Forces-the medal is the country's highest award for military valor; and

29 WHEREAS, Today, more than 200,000 Latinas/os are active duty
30 members of the Armed Forces, and more than 1.4 million Latina/o
31 veterans call the United States, including Colorado, home; now, therefore,

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

1 That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize and
2 commend the efforts and sacrifice of the millions of Latinas/os who have
3 served the cause of freedom as part of the Armed Forces of the United
4 States.

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