

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R21-0964.01 Faith Marcovecchio x4331

SJR21-015

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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Valdez A. and Holtorf,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-015

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

1 WHEREAS, Latina/o individuals have fought in support of the
2 United States and the cause of freedom in every American conflict since
3 the American Revolution, when Colonel Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish
4 governor of the Louisiana territories, and his men assisted General
5 George Washington and the Continental Army in defeating the British
6 forces that were advancing into the then-southwestern U.S. territories;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Despite 150 years of fighting with distinction in
9 support of the United States, it was not until World War II that Latina/o
10 service members became a truly forceful presence; it is estimated that
11 nearly 500,000 Latina/o Americans, often the children of immigrants who

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 entered the United States in previous decades, fought for the cause of
2 freedom in that war, including the 158th Regimental Combat Team and
3 the 141st Infantry Regiment, which consisted of all Spanish-speaking
4 soldiers; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1948, Dr. Hector Garcia, of Corpus Christi, Texas,
6 founded the American GI Forum as a means of addressing cases in which
7 Latina/o veterans were being denied services by the United States
8 Department of Veterans Affairs under the GI Bill, including educational,
9 medical, housing, and other basic benefits; Dr. Garcia and the American
10 GI Forum worked diligently to secure equal access to all benefits, and in
11 1984, Dr. Garcia was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by
12 President Ronald Reagan; and

13 WHEREAS, In the Korean War, the all-Puerto Rican 65th Infantry
14 Regiment, also known as "the Borinqueneers", served three years in
15 service in the mountainous terrain of Pusan, Korea, and for their efforts
16 were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit
17 Commendation, and two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations;
18 in 2016, the unit was recognized with a Congressional Gold Medal; and

19 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War, in which more than 80,000
20 Latina/o service members served, 13 of whom were awarded the
21 Congressional Medal of Honor; many of these Latina/o soldiers were
22 drawn to the military by the opportunity to transcend their working-class
23 roots and by the opportunity afforded them by the GI Bill; and

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

27 WHEREAS, More than 156,000 Latina/o service members are
28 currently active duty members of the Armed Forces, and more than 1.2
29 million Latina/o veterans call the United States home; now, therefore,

30 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General*
31 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
32 *concurring herein:*

33 That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize and
34 commend the efforts and sacrifice of the millions of Latina/o men and
35 women who have served the cause of freedom in and alongside the

1 Armed Forces of the United States.

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