

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1245.01 Cara Meeker x2044

SJR16-035

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Lambert and Merrifield,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Carver and Lee, Joshi, Klingenschmitt, Landgraf, Lundeen, Nordberg, Roupe

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-035

101 CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS AND
102 THE DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF UNITED STATES HIGHWAY
103 24 FROM MILE MARKER 308 TO MILE MARKER 298 AS THE
104 "BUFFALO SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".

1 WHEREAS, African-Americans have served with honor and
2 distinction in every major American war; and

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 180,000 African-Americans served
4 in the U.S. Army and another 18,000 served in the U.S. Navy during the
5 Civil War from 1861-1865; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1866, federal legislation was adopted to create six
7 African-American Army units, identified as the 9th and 10th Cavalry and
8 the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st Infantry Regiments; and

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

1 WHEREAS, The four infantry units were reorganized in 1868 as
2 the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments; and

3 WHEREAS, The African-American troops could only serve West
4 of the Mississippi River because of the prevailing attitudes following the
5 Civil War, which led to their extensive involvement in the settling of the
6 American West; and

7 WHEREAS, These troops were given the nickname of "Buffalo
8 Soldiers" by Native Americans and were known for the same fierce
9 bravery and fighting spirit of the respected animal; and

10 WHEREAS, The Buffalo Soldiers' main charge was to protect
11 settlers as they moved West and to support the westward expansion by
12 building forts, roads, and other infrastructure, and mapping the wilderness
13 as the American West was being developed; and

14 WHEREAS, Buffalo Soldiers were stationed at Fort Lyon and Fort
15 Garland, Colorado, where they assisted civil authorities in peace-keeping
16 efforts and participated in many important military conflicts in Colorado's
17 early history; and

18 WHEREAS, Buffalo Soldiers fought bandits, escorted stage
19 coaches and paymasters, and delivered mail longer than the Pony
20 Express; and

21 WHEREAS, Buffalo Soldiers were awarded 23 Medals of Honor
22 and 40 Certificates of Merit for their valor, endurance, and courage, and
23 the African-American units had the lowest desertion rate in the Army; and

24 WHEREAS, Due to the integral part Buffalo Soldiers have played
25 in the history of Colorado and the United States, it is appropriate to honor
26 their history and valor; and

27 WHEREAS, The year 2016 marks the 150th anniversary of the
28 establishment of these African-American regiments; now, therefore,

29 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
30 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

31 (1) That the portion of United States Highway 24 from Mile

1 Marker 308 to Mile Marker 298, near Garden of the Gods, through the
2 cities of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs, Colorado, be renamed
3 the "Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Highway";

4 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
5 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of the initial
6 placement of signs to mark the designated portion of United States
7 Highway 24 as the "Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Highway"; and

8 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
9 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for El
10 Paso county for the maintenance of the markings for the "Buffalo Soldiers
11 Memorial Highway".

12 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
13 to Governor John Hickenlooper; the Board of County Commissioners for
14 El Paso county; the City Councils of Colorado Springs and Manitou
15 Springs; the Colorado Springs Buffalo Soldiers Community Memorial
16 Committee; the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum; the public affairs
17 offices for Peterson Air Force Base, Fort Carson, the Mountain Post
18 Historical Center, and the United States Air Force Academy; the
19 Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation, the
20 Colorado Transportation Commission, and each member of Colorado's
21 congressional delegation.