

**Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

LLS NO. R16-1245.01 Cara Meeker x2044

**SJR16-035**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lambert and Merrifield,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

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

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**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".**

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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.*

HOUSE  
Final Reading  
April 26, 2016

SENATE  
Final Reading  
April 26, 2016

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.