

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

INTRODUCED

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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Senate Committees

SENATE MEMORIAL 17-003

101 **MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF CAMP**
102 **HALE AS THE NATION'S FIRST NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE**
103 **TO PRESERVE ITS RICH MILITARY HISTORY.**

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

11 WHEREAS, The severe winters and rugged terrain at Camp Hale
12 helped prepare the 10th Mountain Division's skiing soldiers for their
13 brave battles in the northern Italian Alps, including a particular battle in
14 February 1945 when thousands of 10th Mountain Division soldiers
15 silently scaled the steep Riva Ridge in Italy and prevented Germans from

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 using the precipice to survey U.S. forces below and then the next day
2 joined a successful assault on Mount Belvedere, an Axis stronghold in
3 Italy's Northern Appenines, during which hundreds of 10th Mountain
4 Division soldiers perished; and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, While the 10th Mountain Division has changed in its
15 purpose to reflect the unique military needs of our country following
16 World War II and no longer trains in Colorado, Camp Hale remains a
17 testament to the hard work and remarkable bravery needed to protect the
18 United States and its beleaguered World War II Allies from enemy forces;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The historical importance of Camp Hale is
21 complemented by the current need to protect the natural environment
22 surrounding it for future generations of Americans and international
23 visitors captivated by the region's role in American and world history; and

24 WHEREAS, Camp Hale was returned to the White River National
25 Forest when it was decommissioned in 1966, and the Eagle River
26 headwaters within the Camp Hale region are undergoing comprehensive
27 restoration with plans to develop interpretive resources for interested
28 visitors, which will educate Coloradans and visitors from around the
29 world about Camp Hale's uniquely intertwined military, recreational, and
30 ecological history; and

31 WHEREAS, Camp Hale and its surrounding areas not only serve
32 civilians but also many U.S. veterans who return home with physical and
33 emotional traumas from war and rely on natural surroundings as a healing
34 resource that eases their transition back to civilian life; and

35 WHEREAS, By providing Camp Hale with additional protections,

1 the U.S. Congress will ensure that Camp Hale's history is preserved as a
2 national resource, promoting education and interpretation, encouraging
3 ongoing restoration efforts, and sustaining the area's existing recreational
4 uses, all of which are under current threat from seasonal wildfires and
5 private development; and

6 WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Michael Bennet has a working proposal
7 to protect 30,000 acres around Camp Hale to preserve it for future
8 generations; now, therefore,

9 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly*
10 *of the State of Colorado:*

11 That we, the Senate of the Colorado General Assembly:

12 (1) Encourage the U.S. Congress to work together to develop U.S.
13 Senator Michael Bennet's working proposal to designate the area around
14 Camp Hale as the nation's first National Historical Landscape; and

15 (2) Call upon the U.S. Congress to support legislation to ensure
16 that this vital historical and cultural resource becomes a national treasure
17 to be enjoyed by future generations.

18 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be sent to
19 U.S. Senator Michael Bennet; U.S. Senator Cory Gardner; and Governor
20 John Hickenlooper.