



SENATE MEMORIAL 17-003

BY SENATOR(S) Donovan, Kerr, Hill, Aguilar, Cooke, Court, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Holbert, Kagan, Kefalas, Lambert, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Zenzinger, Grantham.

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

WHEREAS, Tucked in a high mountain valley south of Minturn in Eagle County, Colorado, Camp Hale was the home base for the renowned World War II 10th Mountain Division, an elite U.S. Army mountain warfare unit; and

WHEREAS, Comprised of thousands of troops who trained intensely to acquire rock climbing, skiing, and other vital mountaineering skills necessary to battle within harsh high-altitude winter conditions, Camp Hale served as a specialized military training site to prepare soldiers for combat against European Axis forces in mountainous and arctic conditions during World War II; and

WHEREAS, The severe winters and rugged terrain at Camp Hale helped prepare the 10th Mountain Division's skiing soldiers for their brave battles in the northern Italian Alps, including a particular battle in February 1945 when thousands of 10th Mountain Division soldiers silently scaled the steep Riva Ridge in Italy and prevented Germans from using the precipice to survey U.S. forces below and then the next day joined a successful assault on Mount Belvedere, an Axis stronghold in Italy's Northern Appenines, during which hundreds of 10th Mountain Division soldiers perished; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, By providing Camp Hale with additional protections, the U.S. Congress will ensure that Camp Hale's history is preserved as a national resource, promoting education and interpretation, encouraging ongoing restoration efforts, and sustaining the area's existing recreational

uses, all of which are under current threat from seasonal wildfires and private development; and

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

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

That we, the Senate of the Colorado General Assembly:

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

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

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

Kevin Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE