

Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R18-0474.01 Cara Meeker x2044

HJR18-1009

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1009

101 CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE FILLMORE STREET BRIDGE
102 SPANNING INTERSTATE 25 IN COLORADO SPRINGS AS THE
103 "DONALD "DON" STRATTON BRIDGE".

1 WHEREAS, Donald "Don" Stratton was born in Red Cloud,
2 Nebraska on July 14, 1922; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1940, at the age of 19, Don Stratton enlisted in the
4 United States Navy, serving as Seaman 1st Class aboard the U.S.S.
5 *Arizona* stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and

6 WHEREAS, On the morning of December 7, 1941, Seaman
7 Stratton was on the upper decks of his ship on his way to visit a fellow
8 serviceman in the sick bay when he heard the sounds of planes and then
9 saw explosions in the distance; and

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.

HOUSE
Final Reading
January 26, 2018

1 WHEREAS, Realizing immediately that it was Japanese aircraft
2 flying overhead, Seaman Stratton ran to his battle station as sight-setter
3 to calibrate fire at the planes invading the harbor; and

4 WHEREAS, Facing unrelenting air strikes from above, the
5 munitions aboard the U.S.S. *Arizona* were hit and exploded, burning over
6 sixty percent of Seaman Stratton's body; and

7 WHEREAS, Seaman Stratton and five other sailors were able to
8 make it off the doomed *Arizona* thanks to a rope thrown to them by a
9 fellow sailor aboard the adjacent U.S.S. *Vestel*; and

10 WHEREAS, Seaman Stratton was one of only 335 men out of
11 1,512 aboard the U.S.S. *Arizona* to survive the attack that day; and

12 WHEREAS, On that "Day of Infamy", 2,403 people died and
13 another 1,143 were wounded, marking the attack on Pearl Harbor as one
14 of the deadliest foreign attacks on United States soil in modern history;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Seaman Stratton spent nearly a year in the hospital
17 recovering from the wounds he suffered at the attack on Pearl Harbor and
18 was discharged as a disabled veteran in 1942; and

19 WHEREAS, Healed and determined to continue to serve his
20 country, Seaman Stratton returned to uniform and rejoined the Pacific
21 fleet, where he served aboard the U.S.S. *Stack* and participated in military
22 landings in New Guinea, the Philippines, and Okinawa; and

23 WHEREAS, Seaman Stratton was discharged in 1946 at the rank
24 of Gunner's Mate 2nd Class, went on to a successful career as an oil rig
25 seaman and deep sea diver, and he and his wife Velma settled in Colorado
26 Springs; and

27 WHEREAS, Don Stratton has provided invaluable historical
28 information through the recounting of his experience at Pearl Harbor, and
29 has published a memoir of his personal accounts of the attack, entitled
30 "All the Gallant Men"; and

31 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we honor the life and valor of such a
32 hero, so devoted to family and country, and who bore witness to one of

1 the most important events in the history of the United States; now,
2 therefore,

3 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*
4 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

5 (1) That the Fillmore Street bridge spanning Interstate 25 in
6 Colorado Springs be designated as the "Donald "Don" Stratton Bridge";

7 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
8 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial
9 placement of signs visible from Interstate 25 to mark the bridge as the
10 "Donald "Don" Stratton Bridge"; and

11 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
12 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for El
13 Paso County for the maintenance of the markings for the "Donald "Don"
14 Stratton Bridge".

15 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
16 to Donald Stratton, Randy Stratton, Governor John Hickenlooper, the
17 Colorado Springs City Council, the El Paso County Board of
18 Commissioners, Congressman Doug Lamborn, the Veterans of Foreign
19 Wars Post 101, Colorado Springs Council of the Navy League President
20 Tom Gregory, the Peak Military Care Network, the Pikes Peak Heroes
21 Legacy Committee, charitable donor for bridge signage
22 Comcast/NBCUniversal representative Michael D. Nelson, and the
23 Colorado Department of Transportation.