



## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-012

BY SENATOR(S) Hisey and Hinrichsen, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cooke, Coram, Danielson, Donovan, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Holbert, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Fenberg; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Luck, Amabile, Bacon, Baisley, Benavidez, Bernett, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bradfield, Caraveo, Carver, Catlin, Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hanks, Herod, Holtorf, Hooton, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Larson, Lindsay, Lontine, Lynch, McCluskie, McCormick, McKean, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Neville, Ortiz, Pelton, Pico, Ransom, Rich, Ricks, Roberts, Sandridge, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Beber, Van Winkle, Weissman, Will, Williams, Woodrow, Woog, Young, Garnett.

CONCERNING DESIGNATING COLORADO STATE HIGHWAY 115 FROM MILE MARKER 15 TO MILE MARKER 27 AS THE "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS WARRIORS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".

WHEREAS, Colorado has a proud and distinguished history of dedicated military service by men and women of the state whose sacrifice, courage, and heroism preserve for past, present, and future generations the liberties and way of life within our democratic republic as set forth in our state and national constitutions; and

WHEREAS, The state of Colorado significantly benefits from the presence and military service of more than 400,000 veterans, including their family members and survivors. Moreover, Colorado is home to more than 150,000 active duty men and women of the United States Army,

Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and their Reserves, and the Colorado National Guard; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to recognize that Coloradans in all branches and components of the armed services selflessly serve around the world today to protect the security and peace of our nation and others; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Coloradans have served in all branches of the United States Armed Forces during every major military engagement since the Civil War, including World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and the War on Terror; and

WHEREAS, Enlisted Coloradans have been committed to fighting the spread of hate and authoritarianism throughout the world to protect the ideals of democracy and free thought; and

WHEREAS, The freedom and liberties that the people of Colorado and of the United States enjoy today are due in great part to the military service of the men and women who served their country with honor and dignity, and we should remember the legacy of their courage and selfless sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is the proud home to and beneficiary of more than 400,000 military veterans who have served their country long and well and bring great honor and distinction to the state; and

WHEREAS, The forefathers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) were two smaller veterans groups, the American Veterans of Foreign Service and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines, which formed independently in 1899 but then merged to form the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1914. These first veterans groups were formed as local organizations after the Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War, respectively, to secure veterans rights and benefits for their service, as many had arrived home wounded or sick. In those days, there was no Department of Veterans Affairs administration care or pensions for the medically retired. These organizations enabled veterans to care for and help each other with the transition from the battlefield to normal life; and

WHEREAS, The first VFW chapters were formed in Colorado, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Of the three posts that claim to be the first, the VFW national organization recognizes the Colorado post as being first. It is now officially designated as VFW Post 1. By 1915, membership grew to 5,000. By 1936, when it became a government-chartered nonprofit organization, membership was almost 200,000. Today, membership stands at around 1.4 million; and

WHEREAS, To be a member of the VFW, an individual must be a United States citizen or national with an honorable discharge from the United States military or currently be serving in the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard. Membership also requires military service overseas during an operation or conflict and decoration with an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or a campaign medal or ribbon; and

WHEREAS, The VFW has extended beyond the realm of simply being an organization for veterans helping fellow veterans. From its beginnings of providing financial, social, and emotional support to members of the United States Armed Forces, veterans, and their dependents, the VFW has become a leader in community involvement in areas such as mentoring youth groups, helping in community food kitchens, and volunteering in blood drives and other civic volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Veterans of Foreign Wars Colorado Department Commander Earl Haven approved and signed the first state of Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization policy on March 18, 2007; and

WHEREAS, On November 18, 2010, Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander Richard L. Eubank approved the official name for the Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization after approval of the General Committee through Resolution 108, dated August 11, 2010; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization is to promote the VFW Colorado missions; develop membership growth for the organization; increase community awareness; promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activities that foster camaraderie among its members; encourage a better understanding of

motorcycle riding as a constructive activity among the members of the VFW, its Auxiliary, and the public; promote motorcycle safety programs; and provide a social atmosphere for the VFW and its Auxiliary who share the same interests; and

WHEREAS, Money raised during motorcycle fundraising events that are sponsored by the VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization, such as the Run for the Wall annual motorcycle ride from California to Washington, D.C., that has 30,000 riders passing through Colorado, has supported veterans organizations, facilities, causes, and charities that directly benefit veterans, their families, and their survivors; now, therefore,

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

(1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, extend our heartfelt gratitude to our state's veterans, past and present, and to all military men and women currently serving in the armed services, and encourage the citizens of Colorado to honor the thousands of fellow citizens who have served in uniform in order to protect and serve their community, state, and country.

(2) That the portion of Colorado State Highway 115 in Fremont County from Mile Marker 15 to Mile Marker 27 be designated as the "Veterans of Foreign Wars Warriors Memorial Highway".

(3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of the initial placement of signs to mark Colorado State Highway 115 in Fremont County from Mile Marker 15 to Mile Marker 27 as the "Veterans of Foreign Wars Warriors Memorial Highway".

(4) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for Fremont County for the maintenance of the signs marking the "Veterans of Foreign Wars Warriors Memorial Highway".

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to VFW Commander in Chief Matthew M. Mihelcic, VFW Colorado State

Commander Barbara Green, the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado,  
and the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

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Stephen Fenberg  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Alec Garnett  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES