

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

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R23-1016.01 Olivia Nesselroade x2670

**HR23-1005**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lynch and Holtorf,**

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**House Committees**

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION 23-1005**

101      **CONCERNING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROUNDUP**  
102                    **RIDERS OF THE ROCKIES.**

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1                    WHEREAS, The Roundup Riders of the Rockies, also known as  
2      3R, was founded in 1948 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the  
3      perpetuation of the western tradition associated with the relationship  
4      between the American cowboy and his horse; and

5                    WHEREAS, For seventy-five years, 3R has promoted the scenic  
6      and tourist attractions of Colorado as members participate in an annual,  
7      weeklong, 100-mile trail ride during the third week of July in a different  
8      location each year; and

9                    WHEREAS, The idea for this tradition first arose in 1948 while  
10     founders Frank H. (Rick) Ricketson and Joe Dekker were returning home  
11     to Colorado from California after a trek with the California Rancheros  
12     Visitadores of Santa Barbara, California; and

13                    WHEREAS, Rick and Joe both recognized the bountiful beauty to  
14     be admired in the state of Colorado, found in the forest-laden hills, lakes,  
15     streams, and fourteen-thousand-foot peaks, and decided to organize a

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

1 horseback ride through the forests near tourist centers; and

2 WHEREAS, As the story goes, the name of the organization, the  
3 Roundup Riders of the Rockies, was born even before the two founders  
4 settled their boots on Denver ground; and

5 WHEREAS, What began as an idea quickly grew into an  
6 incorporated body: Preliminary meetings were held with similarly  
7 civic-minded citizens; the articles of incorporation were filed on June 18,  
8 1948; and Rick Ricketson was elected as president, Joe Dekker as vice  
9 president, Al Gould as secretary, and L.W. Van Vleet as treasurer; and

10 WHEREAS, The first registration of riders took place on July 10,  
11 1948, and eighteen members signed up for the inaugural trail ride during  
12 the second week of July; and

13 WHEREAS, Growth after that first year was gradual but certain,  
14 with membership limitations set at thirty-five members for future years,  
15 allowing each of the riders the privilege of sponsoring a first-year guest,  
16 known as a "Colt", for the ride; and

17 WHEREAS, The pinnacle event of each year is the 100-mile "Big  
18 Ride", a challenging experience that emphasizes horsemanship,  
19 sportsmanship, and camaraderie among warm and enduring friends; and

20 WHEREAS, Traversing roughly twenty miles per day is arduous,  
21 and midway through the "Big Ride", the riders pause for a "layover day",  
22 providing an opportunity for some to rest and for others to participate in  
23 contests like trapshooting, a trail class, and a rodeo with games to  
24 highlight the prowess of the riders and horses; and

25 WHEREAS, The week ends with all of the riders gathered at "Colt  
26 Mountain", where the first-year recruits are officially inducted with a  
27 deeply moving and heartfelt ceremony that concludes with the Colts  
28 "catching the Spirit of the Ride"; and

29 WHEREAS, After seventy-three consecutive years of annual rides,  
30 the 2020 "Big Ride" was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and  
31 in 2021, the members were excited to be back in camp and enjoyed  
32 renewing friendships in light of the separation caused by a trying year;  
33 and

1           WHEREAS, Today, Roundup Riders of the Rockies members  
2 come from fifteen different states ranging from Connecticut to California,  
3 and this diverse group includes ranchers, farmers, businessmen,  
4 physicians, law enforcement officers, retired members of the United  
5 States forest service, attorneys, university professors, veterinarians,  
6 military veterans, and other professionals; and

7           WHEREAS, A number of Colorado elected officials have had the  
8 honor of participating in the "Big Ride", which elected officials include  
9 individuals such as former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm and former  
10 Representative Patrick Grant, while House Minority Leader,  
11 Representative Mike Lynch, and Representative Richard Holtorf are  
12 current members of 3R; and

13           WHEREAS, As a way to give back to their communities, 3R  
14 members were instrumental in establishing the Citizen of the West  
15 fundraiser, which fundraiser supports the National Western Scholarship  
16 Trust that annually awards over eighty scholarships to undergraduate and  
17 medical students from rural Colorado and Wyoming; and

18           WHEREAS, The Roundup Riders of the Rockies also founded the  
19 Heritage and Trails Foundation, which organization helps provide  
20 funding for trails and numerous equestrian-related projects throughout  
21 Colorado for public enjoyment and use; and

22           WHEREAS, 3R is strongly dedicated to the promotion,  
23 advancement, and prosperity of the state of Colorado and to the  
24 preservation and utilization of our public lands and trails for the benefit  
25 of all citizens; now, therefore,

26           *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the*  
27 *Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

28           That we, the members of the Colorado House of Representatives,  
29 commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Roundup Riders of the  
30 Rockies; recognize the horsemanship, sportsmanship, and dedication  
31 required to be a member; and express gratitude to the riders for their  
32 appreciation of Colorado's natural beauty and for their efforts to see all  
33 citizens of Colorado benefitted by the preservation and utilization of  
34 public lands.