



HOUSE RESOLUTION 23-1005

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lynch and Holtorf, Amabile, Armagost, Bacon, Bird, Bockenfeld, Bottoms, Brown, Catlin, Daugherty, DeGraaf, Duran, English, Frizell, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hamrick, Hartsook, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Pugliese, Sharbini, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Willford, Winter T., Young, McCluskie.

CONCERNING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROUNDUP RIDERS OF THE ROCKIES.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Rick and Joe both recognized the bountiful beauty to be admired in the state of Colorado, found in the forest-laden hills, lakes, streams, and fourteen-thousand-foot peaks, and decided to organize a horseback ride through the forests near tourist centers; and

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

WHEREAS, What began as an idea quickly grew into an incorporated body: Preliminary meetings were held with similarly civic-minded

citizens; the articles of incorporation were filed on June 18, 1948; and Rick Ricketson was elected as president, Joe Dekker as vice president, Al Gould as secretary, and L.W. Van Vleet as treasurer; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES