

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1174.01 Cara Meeker x2044

SJR16-032

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marble,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Buck,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-032

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE OVERPASS ACROSS UNITED**
102 **STATES INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 25 AT KECHTER ROAD IN FORT**
103 **COLLINS AS THE "BUCHANAN LIBERTY BRIDGE".**

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Thomas "Tom" Buchanan, a Marine and
2 Colorado citizen, departed this life on March 5, 2016, at the age of 63;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Sergeant Buchanan was born in Milwaukee,
5 Wisconsin, on May 24, 1952, and spent his childhood in Saint Claire
6 Shores, Michigan; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1970, Sergeant Buchanan joined the United States
8 Marine Corp and was trained at the School of Ground Radio Repair at 29
9 Palms, and subsequently stationed at Camp Pendleton during his years of

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 active service; and

2 WHEREAS, Following his discharge in 1973, Sergeant Buchanan
3 relocated to Colorado in 1980 where he worked and raised his family of
4 ten children with his wife of 27 years; and

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant Buchanan was an active veteran and
6 member of his community and was known for his humility, positive
7 attitude, and great care for his friends and neighbors; and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant Buchanan was instrumental in forming the
9 Loveland Marine Corps League Detachment in 2006, for which he was
10 promoted to and served as the League Commandant for two years and
11 was serving as Paymaster at the time of his death; and

12 WHEREAS, Among the many volunteer duties of the Loveland
13 Marine Corps League Detachment, Sergeant Buchanan assisted in the
14 collection of more than 10,000 worn American flags for proper disposal,
15 the care and maintenance of the military canon in Dwayne Webster
16 Veterans Park, and the planning of several local parades and fundraisers;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Buchanan also orchestrated the singing of
19 "God Bless America" at local events, so much so that it became his
20 "trademark" in the community; and

21 WHEREAS, For his efforts, Sergeant Buchanan was awarded
22 Detachment Marine of the Year in 2009; and

23 WHEREAS, Sergeant Buchanan assisted veterans and others to
24 become and remain sober through Alcoholics Anonymous, helping
25 anyone who called no matter what time of day or night, and for which
26 many people attributed Sergeant Buchanan to having saved their lives;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, As a proud veteran, Sergeant Buchanan was
29 dedicated to assisting active duty families and wounded warriors;
30 participating in memorial services and dedications; and orchestrating the
31 display and waving of American flags on the Kechter Overpass on
32 Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day; and

33 WHEREAS, Sergeant Buchanan was a community leader, a true

1 patriot, and dedicated his life to service, and it is fitting that he be
2 recognized for his service to our nation; now, therefore,

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

5 (1) That the overpass across United States Interstate Highway 25
6 at Kechter Road in Fort Collins be designated as the "Buchanan Liberty
7 Bridge";

8 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
9 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of the initial
10 placement of signs to mark the overpass as the "Buchanan Liberty
11 Bridge"; and

12 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
13 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for
14 Larimer County for the maintenance of the markings for the "Buchanan
15 Liberty Bridge".

16 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
17 to Sergeant Buchanan's sons Andy Brinsfield, Thomas Buchanan, Jr.,
18 Bryan Brinsfield, Steve Buchanan, Neil Buchanan, and Sam Buchanan;
19 his daughters Angela Varra, Richelle Chappell, Dorié Buchanan, Mary Jo
20 Buchanan; friends Nancy Macudzinski, Cathy Blake, Rose Gagnon,
21 Timmy Jo Given, Joe Lehan, Danny Lehan, David Lehan, and Solomon
22 Martinez; the Loveland Marine Corps League Detachment #1250; and the
23 Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County.