

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-0980.01 Ashley Athey x2291

HJR17-1015

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McLachlan,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Transportation & Energy

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1015

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF COLORADO STATE HIGHWAY 3 AS**
102 **THE "CAPTAIN JEFF KUSS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".**

1 WHEREAS, Marine Corps Captain Jeff Kuss was born in 1984 in
2 Durango, Colorado to Michael and Janet Kuss; and

3 WHEREAS, As a child, Captain Kuss always preferred playing
4 with toy planes, and he began flying at the age of 15; and

5 WHEREAS, Captain Kuss attended Durango High School,
6 graduating in 2002, and Fort Lewis College, graduating in 2006 with a
7 degree in Economics; and

8 WHEREAS, Captain Kuss joined the United States Marine Corps
9 and served a deployment in the Middle East; and

*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 WHEREAS, Captain Kuss started a career in aviation in July 2007
2 when he reported to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, and went
3 on to graduate from the Navy Fighter Weapons School, also known as
4 "Top Gun", in 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, Captain Kuss was one of only three pilots selected to
6 join the Blue Angels in 2014, an elite United States Navy Flight
7 Demonstration Squadron, and accumulated more than 1,400 flight hours
8 and 175 landings on aircraft carriers; and

9 WHEREAS, A huge fan of the Denver Broncos, Captain Kuss, as
10 a member of the 2016 Blue Angels team, was one of six pilots who flew
11 over Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, for Super Bowl 50; and

12 WHEREAS, On June 2, 2016, Captain Kuss was training for a
13 Blue Angels air show in Smyrna, Tennessee, when his plane went down
14 during a "Split S" maneuver; and

15 WHEREAS, Captain Kuss was able to avoid nearby
16 neighborhoods and schools, but he was unable to eject from the jet in time
17 to save his own life, dying that day at age 32; and

18 WHEREAS, During his career, Captain Kuss received various
19 awards, including the Strike Flight Air Medal and the Navy and Marine
20 Corps Achievement Medals, and he received various personal and unit
21 awards; and

22 WHEREAS, Captain Kuss had climbed all the 14ers in Colorado
23 and was known as a humble, sweet, focused, hard-working man dedicated
24 to his country and he will be sorely missed; now, therefore,

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

27 (1) That Colorado State Highway 3 be renamed the "Captain Jeff
28 Kuss Memorial Highway".

29 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
30 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial
31 placement of the two signs to mark Colorado State Highway 3 as the
32 "Captain Jeff Kuss Memorial Highway".

1 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
2 to Captain Kuss' wife, Christina Kuss, and his children, Calvin and
3 Sloane; his parents, Michael and Janet Kuss; his brother, Eric Kuss; and
4 the Durango High School Alumni Association.