

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R21-0946.01 Cara Meeker x2044

SJR21-020

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Luck,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-020

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE OVERPASS OF STATE**
102 **HIGHWAY 115 THAT CROSSES OVER UNITED STATES HIGHWAY**
103 **50 IN FREMONT COUNTY, COLORADO, AS THE "DEPUTY**
104 **SHERIFF JASON SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL BRIDGE".**

1 WHEREAS, Fremont County Deputy Sheriff Jason Schwartz was
2 shot and killed in the line of duty on September 28, 2001; and

3 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Schwartz was murdered while
4 transporting two arrestees to jail; and

5 WHEREAS, While being transported in the back of Deputy Sheriff
6 Schwartz's patrol car, one of the two arrestees, who was in possession of
7 two handguns and a makeshift handcuff key, was able to free himself; and

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

1 WHEREAS, The men shot Deputy Sheriff Schwartz four times
2 through a gap in the patrol car's cage, then pulled his body from the
3 vehicle and shot him eight more times before fleeing; and

4 WHEREAS, In the terrorizing hours that followed, the arrestees
5 went on to engage local law enforcement with active gunfire, wounding
6 three of them; and

7 WHEREAS, Corporal Toby Bethel of the Florence Police
8 Department was critically injured during an ambush, Chief Mike Ingle of
9 the Florence Police Department was injured by flying glass debris while
10 under fire, and Fremont County Sheriff Deputy Orozco was shot in the
11 left arm; and

12 WHEREAS, Following an intensive manhunt, the killers were
13 apprehended and subsequently sentenced to life in prison; and

14 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Schwartz had served with the Fremont
15 County Sheriff's Department for one year and had served in law
16 enforcement for four years; and

17 WHEREAS, At the time of the attack on Deputy Sheriff Schwartz,
18 his patrol car was located under the overpass at State Highway 115 and
19 United States Highway 50; and

20 WHEREAS, Each year, a small group of those who responded that
21 day, including Deputy Sheriff Schwartz's wife and son, who was only two
22 weeks old at the time of his father's murder, gather at the overpass for a
23 moment of silence; and

24 WHEREAS, It is only fitting that Deputy Sheriff Schwartz's
25 dedication and ultimate sacrifice be recognized so that we may never
26 forget his service to the people of the state of Colorado; now, therefore,

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

30 (1) That the overpass of State Highway 115 that crosses over
31 United States Highway 50 in Fremont County, Colorado, be designated
32 as the "Deputy Sheriff Jason Schwartz Memorial Bridge".

1 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
2 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of the initial
3 placement of signs to mark the overpass of State Highway 115 that
4 crosses over United States Highway 50 in Fremont County, Colorado, as
5 the "Deputy Sheriff Jason Schwartz Memorial Bridge".

6 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
7 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for
8 Fremont County for the maintenance of the signs marking the "Deputy
9 Sheriff Jason Schwartz Memorial Bridge".

10 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
11 to Sheryl Schwartz, the Fremont County Sheriff's Department, and the
12 Board of County Commissioners for Fremont County.