

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

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R22-0862.01 Andrew Webster x2044

SJR22-012

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-012

101 **CONCERNING DESIGNATING COLORADO STATE HIGHWAY 115 FROM**
102 **MILE MARKER 15 TO MILE MARKER 27 AS THE "VETERANS OF**
103 **FOREIGN WARS WARRIORS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".**

1 WHEREAS, Colorado has a proud and distinguished history of
2 dedicated military service by men and women of the state whose sacrifice,
3 courage, and heroism preserve for past, present, and future generations
4 the liberties and way of life within our democratic republic as set forth in
5 our state and national constitutions; and

6 WHEREAS, The state of Colorado significantly benefits from the
7 presence and military service of more than 400,000 veterans, including
8 their family members and survivors. Moreover, Colorado is home to more
9 than 150,000 active duty men and women of the United States Army,
10 Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and their

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.

SENATE
Final Reading
April 21, 2022

1 Reserves, and the Colorado National Guard; and

2 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to recognize that Coloradans in all
3 branches and components of the armed services selflessly serve around
4 the world today to protect the security and peace of our nation and others;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Thousands of Coloradans have served in all branches
7 of the United States Armed Forces during every major military
8 engagement since the Civil War, including World Wars I and II, the
9 Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and the War on
10 Terror; and

11 WHEREAS, Enlisted Coloradans have been committed to fighting
12 the spread of hate and authoritarianism throughout the world to protect
13 the ideals of democracy and free thought; and

14 WHEREAS, The freedom and liberties that the people of Colorado
15 and of the United States enjoy today are due in great part to the military
16 service of the men and women who served their country with honor and
17 dignity, and we should remember the legacy of their courage and selfless
18 sacrifice; and

19 WHEREAS, Colorado is the proud home to and beneficiary of
20 more than 400,000 military veterans who have served their country long
21 and well and bring great honor and distinction to the state; and

22 WHEREAS, The forefathers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars
23 (VFW) were two smaller veterans groups, the American Veterans of
24 Foreign Service and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines,
25 which formed independently in 1899 but then merged to form the
26 Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1914. These first veterans groups were
27 formed as local organizations after the Spanish-American War and the
28 Philippine-American War, respectively, to secure veterans rights and
29 benefits for their service, as many had arrived home wounded or sick. In
30 those days, there was no Department of Veterans Affairs administration
31 care or pensions for the medically retired. These organizations enabled
32 veterans to care for and help each other with the transition from the
33 battlefield to normal life; and

34 WHEREAS, The first VFW chapters were formed in Colorado,
35 Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Of the three posts that claim to be the first, the

1 VFW national organization recognizes the Colorado post as being first.
2 It is now officially designated as VFW Post 1. By 1915, membership
3 grew to 5,000. By 1936, when it became a government-chartered
4 nonprofit organization, membership was almost 200,000. Today,
5 membership stands at around 1.4 million; and

6 WHEREAS, To be a member of the VFW, an individual must be
7 a United States citizen or national with an honorable discharge from the
8 United States military or currently be serving in the United States Army,
9 Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard. Membership also
10 requires military service overseas during an operation or conflict and
11 decoration with an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or a campaign
12 medal or ribbon; and

13 WHEREAS, The VFW has extended beyond the realm of simply
14 being an organization for veterans helping fellow veterans. From its
15 beginnings of providing financial, social, and emotional support to
16 members of the United States Armed Forces, veterans, and their
17 dependents, the VFW has become a leader in community involvement in
18 areas such as mentoring youth groups, helping in community food
19 kitchens, and volunteering in blood drives and other civic volunteerism;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Veterans of Foreign Wars Colorado Department
22 Commander Earl Haven approved and signed the first state of Colorado
23 VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization policy on March 18, 2007; and

24 WHEREAS, On November 18, 2010, Veterans of Foreign Wars
25 National Commander Richard L. Eubank approved the official name for
26 the Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization after approval of
27 the General Committee through Resolution 108, dated August 11, 2010;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, The mission of the VFW Warriors Motorcycle
30 Organization is to promote the VFW Colorado missions; develop
31 membership growth for the organization; increase community awareness;
32 promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activities that foster
33 camaraderie among its members; encourage a better understanding of
34 motorcycle riding as a constructive activity among the members of the
35 VFW, its Auxiliary, and the public; promote motorcycle safety programs;
36 and provide a social atmosphere for the VFW and its Auxiliary who share
37 the same interests; and

1 WHEREAS, Money raised during motorcycle fundraising events
2 that are sponsored by the VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization, such
3 as the Run for the Wall annual motorcycle ride from California to
4 Washington, D.C., that has 30,000 riders passing through Colorado, has
5 supported veterans organizations, facilities, causes, and charities that
6 directly benefit veterans, their families, and their survivors; now,
7 therefore,

8 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General*
9 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
10 *concurring herein:*

11 (1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
12 extend our heartfelt gratitude to our state's veterans, past and present, and
13 to all military men and women currently serving in the armed services,
14 and encourage the citizens of Colorado to honor the thousands of fellow
15 citizens who have served in uniform in order to protect and serve their
16 community, state, and country.

17 (2) That the portion of Colorado State Highway 115 in Fremont
18 County from Mile Marker 15 to Mile Marker 27 be designated as the
19 "Veterans of Foreign Wars Warriors Memorial Highway".

20 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
21 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of the initial
22 placement of signs to mark Colorado State Highway 115 in Fremont
23 County from Mile Marker 15 to Mile Marker 27 as the "Veterans of
24 Foreign Wars Warriors Memorial Highway".

25 (4) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
26 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for
27 Fremont County for the maintenance of the signs marking the "Veterans
28 of Foreign Wars Warriors Memorial Highway".

29 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
30 to VFW Commander in Chief Matthew M. Mihelcic, VFW Colorado
31 State Commander Barbara Green, the United Veterans Coalition of
32 Colorado, and the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.