

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R18-0019.01 Ashley Athey x2291

HJR18-1011

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Exum,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Merrifield,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1011

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 85-87 FROM**
102 **INTERSTATE 25 TO COMANCHE VILLAGE DRIVE AS THE**
103 **"REVEREND JAMES H. McMERN MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".**

1 WHEREAS, The Reverend James H. McMern was born February
2 17, 1940 in Crockett, Texas. After graduating from high school, Rev.
3 McMern joined the United States Air Force in 1960 and was honorably
4 discharged in 1965; and

5 WHEREAS, In March 1967, he announced his calling to ministry
6 and began his mentorship with the late Rev. F. L. Chandler. On July 21,
7 1968, at the New Hope Baptist Church in Pueblo, Colorado, he was
8 ordained a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

9 WHEREAS, From 1969 to 1973, he was employed by the El Paso

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 County health department as an alcohol and drug counselor, and during
2 this period he was promoted to Director of Minority Drug and Alcohol
3 Services and co-authored a book titled "It's So Good, Don't Try It"; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1972, Rev. McMearn founded the New Jerusalem
5 Missionary Baptist Church where he served as Senior Pastor for 40 years.
6 He retired in 2012, passed the mantel to Pastor Kevin T. Daniels Sr., and
7 was bestowed the title Pastor Emeritus; and

8 WHEREAS, Rev. McMearn had a special relationship with the
9 late Rev. Dr. Milton E. Proby, who mentored him as a young man,
10 encouraged him to become a leader, and helped him during his early
11 schooling; and

12 WHEREAS, Determined to not forget the legacy of Rev. Proby
13 and to honor the late pastor, Rev. McMearn established the Milton E.
14 Proby Action Committee, which led the efforts to have Rev. Proby's
15 legacy memorialized; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2006, Rev. McMearn partnered with the City of
17 Colorado Springs in the naming of Milton E. Proby Parkway; and

18 WHEREAS, Rev. McMearn, with William J. Hybl and the El
19 Pomar Foundation, established the Milton E. Proby Cultural Heritage
20 Room Induction Ceremony to address further needs for the community,
21 and he served as an advisory group member for the Pikes Peak
22 Community Development Initiative/College Readiness and Success
23 Program while also serving as an active participant in the Emerging
24 Leaders Development Program; and

25 WHEREAS, Rev. McMearn received his degree *cum laude* in
26 Religious Studies with a minor in Christian Education from Regis
27 University and studied in the Masters of Divinity program at the Denver
28 Seminary in Denver, Colorado, receiving a full scholarship under their
29 Senior Urban Pastor Scholarship Program due to his demonstrated
30 pastoral record; and

31 WHEREAS, Rev. McMearn's ministry has expanded to Kenya,
32 Ghana, and the West Indies; and

33 WHEREAS, In an effort to make the community better for all,
34 Rev. McMearn served in numerous capacities, including President of

1 what is now known as the Southern Colorado Ministerial Union, board
2 member of the Rocky Mountain Land Trust, board member for the
3 SACHS Foundation, Convener for the Colorado Springs Mayor's
4 Complete Count Committee, and many more; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. McMearn received many awards and much
6 recognition for his services throughout the city, state, country, and
7 abroad, and among his most notable were the drum major award received
8 from President Barack Obama during his special invitation to the White
9 House and his posthumous recognition as an El Pomar Foundation 2017
10 Milton E. Proby Cultural Heritage Room Inductee; and

11 WHEREAS, In May 2016, Rev. McMearn, beloved pastor and
12 civil rights leader, died at age 76, and it is fitting that we honor a man
13 who devoted his life to serving his community, his state, and his God;
14 now, therefore,

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

17 (1) That U.S. Highway 85-87 between Interstate 25 and
18 Comanche Village Drive be designated as the "Reverend James H.
19 McMearn Memorial Highway";

20 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
21 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial
22 placement of signs to mark U.S. Highway 85-87 from Interstate 25 to
23 Comanche Village Drive as the "Reverend James H. McMearn Memorial
24 Highway"; and

25 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
26 a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for El
27 Paso County for the maintenance of the markings for the "Reverend
28 James H. McMearn Memorial Highway".

29 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
30 to Rev. McMearn's wife, Mary McMearn; his daughter, Elizabeth
31 Jefferson; his son, James McMearn; and Pastor Kevin Daniels of the New
32 Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.