

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R21-1045.01 Bethanie Pack x4829

HJR21-1013

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ortiz and Lynch,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Garcia and Gardner,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-1013

101 **CONCERNING HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE**
102 **MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE TO OUR**
103 **NATION IN RECOGNITION OF MEMORIAL DAY.**

1 WHEREAS, Brave Americans from all walks of life, all corners
2 of this nation, and some from around the world have fought, sacrificed,
3 and died in service to this nation since its founding; and

4 WHEREAS, Memorial Day has various origins from our Civil
5 War. On May 1, 1865, more than 1,000 Black Americans recently freed
6 from enslavement, accompanied by regiments of the U.S. Colored
7 Troops, including the Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment and a
8 handful of White Charlestonians, gathered in a POW camp in Charleston,
9 South Carolina, to consecrate a new proper burial site for the over 250
10 Union soldiers who died in the POW camp singing hymns, reading

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 scripture, and distributing flowers around the cemetery, which they
2 dedicated to the "Martyrs of the Race Course"; and

3 WHEREAS, In May 1868, General John A. Logan, the
4 commander in chief of the Union veterans group known as the "Grand
5 Army of the Republic", issued a decree that May 30 should become a
6 nationwide day of commemoration for the more than 620,000 soldiers
7 killed in the recently ended Civil War, and should be known as
8 Decoration Day, where Americans lay flowers and decorate the graves of
9 those who died in the war; and

10 WHEREAS, Decoration Day continued until after World War I
11 when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in
12 the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1968, Congress passed the "Uniform Monday
14 Holiday Act", which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in
15 May, with the changes going into effect in 1971, officially declaring
16 Memorial Day a federal holiday; and

17 WHEREAS, More than 1.1 million Americans have made the
18 ultimate sacrifice and have been killed in all U.S. wars, including well
19 over 3,000 Coloradans; now, therefore,

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

22 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, honor
23 and commemorate those service members who have paid the ultimate
24 sacrifice to a grateful nation by taking a moment of silence to reflect on
25 the lives lost, on how their sacrifices have shaped this nation and have
26 allowed us the freedom and privilege to serve in this great body, and on
27 the friends and family who were left behind by the sacrifices of those
28 brave men and women.

29 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
30 to the commanders of the American Legion posts in Colorado; the
31 commanders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in Colorado; the
32 commanders of Colorado's active military bases; the U.S. Air Force
33 Academy; the Pikes Peak Chapter of Gold Star Mothers; the Denver
34 Chapter of Gold Star Wives; the chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of

- 1 Colorado; the Colorado Fallen Heroes Memorial Organization; and the
- 2 Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation.