



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1011

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Exum and Landgraf, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Neville P., Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Reyher, Roberts, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young;
also SENATOR(S) Merrifield, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, From 1969 to 1973, he was employed by the El Paso County health department as an alcohol and drug counselor, and during this period he was promoted to Director of Minority Drug and Alcohol Services and co-authored a book titled "It's So Good, Don't Try It"; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, In an effort to make the community better for all, Rev. McMearn served in numerous capacities, including President of what is now known as the Southern Colorado Ministerial Union, board member of the Rocky Mountain Land Trust, board member for the SACHS Foundation, Convener for the Colorado Springs Mayor's Complete Count Committee, and many more; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE