First Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

LLS NO. R23-0826.01 Asia Merrill x4829

HJR23-1017

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House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-1017 101 CONCERNING HONORING THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION OF 102 COLORADO. WHEREAS, Tucked in a high mountain valley south of Minturn 1 2 in Eagle County, Colorado, Camp Hale was the home base for the 3 renowned World War II 10th Mountain Division, an elite U.S. Army 4 mountain warfare unit; and 5 WHEREAS, Comprised of thousands of troops who trained 6 intensely to acquire rock climbing, skiing, and other vital mountaineering 7 skills necessary to battle within harsh high-altitude winter conditions, 8 Camp Hale served as a specialized military training site to prepare 9 soldiers for combat against European Axis forces in mountainous and 10 arctic conditions during World War II; and

WHEREAS, The severe winters and rugged terrain at Camp Hale helped prepare the 10th Mountain Division's skiing soldiers for their brave battles in the northern Italian Alps, including a particular battle in February 1945 when thousands of 10th Mountain Division soldiers silently scaled the steep Riva Ridge in Italy and prevented Germans from using the precipice to survey U.S. forces below and then, the next day, joined a successful assault on Mount Belvedere, an Axis stronghold in Italy's Northern Apennines, during which hundreds of 10th Mountain Division soldiers perished; and

WHEREAS, The 10th Mountain Division soldiers fought tirelessly in Italy and central Europe until Germany's final surrender in 1945 and then returned to the United States, where the division was demobilized and inactivated on November 20, 1945, at Camp Carson, Colorado; and

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WHEREAS, The 10th Mountain Division soldiers who trained at Camp Hale during World War II not only distinguished themselves internationally for their bravery but also brought worldwide attention to Colorado's unique climate and geography for specialized military training; and

WHEREAS, While the 10th Mountain Division has changed in its purpose to reflect the unique military needs of our country following World War II, the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division deserves protection and tribute; we, the Seventy-fourth General Assembly, recognize the hard work and remarkable bravery needed to protect the United States and its beleaguered World War II Allies from enemy forces; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans of the 10th Mountain Division dedicated the rest of their lives to the conservation of Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range area after World War II, creating the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association. The association works to preserve 30 huts, which allow visitors to experience the land and conditions as the 10th Mountain Division did over 80 years ago; and

WHEREAS, In a historic act that speaks to the 10th Mountain Division's valuable role in American history, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. used his powers granted pursuant to the federal Antiquities Act for the first time during his administration to declare Camp Hale the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument on October 12, 2022, thereby protecting both the natural environment and the state heritage

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1	interwoven with the area; and
2	WHEREAS, President Biden's proclamation of Camp Hale as a
3	national monument ensures the preservation of the veterans' post-war
4	effort and the memory of their heroic actions; thanks to the 10th
5	Mountain Division Hut Association, visitors can now ski a mile in the
6	division's shoes and enjoy the training facilities recreationally; and
7	WHEREAS, The Camp Hale-Continental Divide National
8	Monument will serve as a reminder of the 10th Mountain Division and
9	their sacrifice for generations to come; now, therefore,
10	Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the
11	Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate
12	concurring herein:
13	That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby
14	memorialize the 10th Mountain Division and declare our appreciation for
15	the newly designated Camp Hale-Continental Divide National
16	Monument.
17	Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
18	to the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, the 10th Mountain Division
19	Hut Association, the 10th Mountain Division at the U.S. Army For
20	Drum, the Colorado Snowsports Museum, the Eagle County Board of
21	Commissioners, the Summit County Board of Commissioners, the Lake
22	County Board of Commissioners, Senator Michael Bennet, Senator John
23	Hickenlooper, Representative Joe Neguse, and Representative Brittany
24	Pettersen.

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