

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R14-0984.01 Owen Colling x4338

SJR14-030

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts and Kefalas, Aguilar, Crowder

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Senate Committees

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-030

101 CONCERNING MEMORIALIZING THE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO PEOPLE  
102 WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE SAND CREEK MASSACRE,  
103 HONORING THEIR DESCENDANTS, AND COMMEMORATING THE  
104 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THAT TRAGIC EVENT.

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1 WHEREAS, On November 29, 1864, approximately 675 United  
2 States soldiers under the command of Colonel John Chivington killed  
3 more than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho villagers, mostly elderly men,  
4 women, and children, approximately 180 miles southeast of Denver near  
5 Eads, Colorado; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite assurance from American negotiators that  
7 they would be safe, and despite Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle raising both  
8 a United States flag and a white flag as symbols of peace, Colonel

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
Final Reading  
April 28, 2014

1 Chivington ordered his troops to take no prisoners and to pillage and set  
2 the village ablaze, violently forcing the ambushed and outnumbered  
3 Cheyenne and Arapaho villagers to flee on foot; and

4 WHEREAS, Colonel Chivington and his troops paraded mutilated  
5 body parts of men, women, and children in downtown Denver, Colorado,  
6 in celebration of the massacre; and

7 WHEREAS, Captain Silas Soule, commander of Company D, 1st  
8 Colorado Cavalry, remains a symbol of bravery, as he pleaded with his  
9 commander Colonel Chivington not to attack the peaceful villagers,  
10 refused to order his soldiers to participate in the massacre, alerted the  
11 United States Congress and the public to the massacre that it might be  
12 investigated, testified in Army hearings against his commander, and later  
13 was assassinated for his efforts to illuminate the truth; and

14 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Joseph Cramer, commander of Company  
15 K, also stood with Captain Soule, as did at least 100 other soldiers, in  
16 refusing to follow orders to participate in the massacre, and Lieutenant  
17 Cramer also notified authorities by letter of the atrocities he witnessed  
18 that day and testified before an Army commission; and

19 WHEREAS, The Sand Creek Massacre was a tragedy of  
20 worldwide importance and continues to impact the sovereign Tribal  
21 nations whose ancestors were massacred that tragic day; and

22 WHEREAS, Colorado Senate Joint Resolution 99-017 added an  
23 interpretive plaque to the Civil War monument outside the State Capitol,  
24 explaining the mischaracterization of the Sand Creek Massacre as a battle  
25 and the people of Colorado's struggle to interpret and take responsibility  
26 for the past; and

27 WHEREAS, The National Park Service established, by an act of  
28 Congress, the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, which opened  
29 in April 2007 to preserve and protect the physical and cultural landscape  
30 of the massacre and to enhance public awareness and understanding; and

31 WHEREAS, The Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana, the  
32 Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho  
33 Tribes of Oklahoma organized the annual Sand Creek Spiritual Healing  
34 Run in 1999 that begins in Eads, Colorado, and ends on the steps of the  
35 State Capitol, to remember what the Cheyenne and Arapaho people

1       endured and to honor those killed; and

2               WHEREAS, Healing from such tragedy requires, in part,  
3       recognition of and redress for the tragedy, and efforts have been made  
4       both to help educate the public about the massacre and to teach respect  
5       for diverse cultures in order to better understand and learn from the past;  
6       and

7               WHEREAS, Educating the public about the Sand Creek Massacre  
8       and people like Captain Silas Soule and Lieutenant Joseph Cramer who  
9       stood up for justice encourages people to stand up against injustices now  
10       and prevent tragedies such as this in the future; and

11              WHEREAS, November 29, 2014, is the 150th anniversary of the  
12       Sand Creek Massacre, and the State of Colorado recognizes the lives that  
13       were lost and that healing from this devastating event must continue; and

14              WHEREAS, Governor Hickenlooper issued Executive Order  
15       B 2014-003 on March 17, 2014, establishing the Sand Creek Massacre  
16       Commemoration Commission to plan and prepare events for the 150th  
17       anniversary of the massacre that respect and memorialize the Cheyenne  
18       and Arapaho people and their ancestors, promote cross-cultural  
19       understanding, and educate the public about the massacre and the events  
20       surrounding it so such atrocities can be prevented in the future; now,  
21       therefore,

22              *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly*  
23       *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

24              That we, the members of the General Assembly, acknowledge the  
25       devastation caused by the Sand Creek Massacre and seek to raise public  
26       awareness about the tragic event, the Cheyenne and Arapaho people, and  
27       events surrounding it.

28              *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
29       to Governor Eddie Hamilton of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of  
30       Oklahoma; Chairman Darrell O'Neal, Sr., of the Northern Arapaho  
31       Business Council; President Llevando Fisher of the Northern Cheyenne  
32       Tribal Council; Governor John Hickenlooper; Lieutenant Governor  
33       Joseph Garcia; and the Sand Creek Massacre Commemoration  
34       Commission.