



UNITED VETERANS COMMITTEE OF COLORADO

Final Legislative Report for the 71st General Assembly - 2017

SUMMARY:

The United Veterans Committee (UVC) of Colorado had a very successful 2017 legislative session. We held positions on 45 bills and resolutions- 19 Senate Bills, 8 House Bills, 18 House & Senate Resolutions- and monitored 3 other bills. Of these 48 pieces of legislation, the UVC Legislative Committee voted to “SUPPORT” 43 bills and resolutions, “OPPOSE” 2 bills, and “MONITOR” 3 bills. Of the 43 bills and resolutions we supported, 39 were passed by the General Assembly. Of the two bills opposed by the UVC, one was “POSTPONED INDEFINITELY” and the other was lost on the floor of the Senate (voted down). The UVC prevailed on 41 of the 45 bills and resolutions we took a “SUPPORT” or “OPPOSE” position – for a total success rate of 91% this legislative session.

Of the bills we supported, there were many notable successes. Among them were: HB17-1004, which ensures college credit for military training and demonstrated learning while in service; HB17-1346, that outlines the selling of Ft. Logan land to the federal government; SB17-232, that extends the sunset date on the Bingo-Raffle Advisory Board; HB17-1056, which adds 501(c)(4)&(19) Veteran Service Organizations to the list of allowed placement destinations for court mandated community service; HB17-1149, which clarifies that the US Army Special Forces license plates is reserved only for those that completed the special forces training regimen. Additionally, two important bills supported by the UVC failed to pass. These bills were SB17-075, which would have created a tax exemption for military retirees under 55 years old covering the first \$20,000 of retirement benefits, and HB17-1168, that would have which would have allowed, upon the discretion of a court judge, a court to order the criminal conviction of a military defendant to be sealed when certain probationary conditions were satisfied. Even in failure, the UVC lead the way in bipartisan negotiation on these bills and did not lose sight of our goal at the Capitol: creating legislation that benefits all veterans and all Coloradans. The fight for these bills will continue. We will lobby to help ensure that our legislative sponsors bring these bills back to try again in the 2018 legislative session.

In addition to supporting bills and resolutions, the UVC also assisted in lobbying for the following amendments to the 2018 State Budget: an additional **\$15.3 million in housing** benefits for those who suffer from substance abuse issues (which will undoubtedly affect, among others, our brothers and sisters in arms who have been dishonorably discharged due to mental health issues), **\$300,000 in additional funding** for County Veterans Service Officers, approximately **\$475,000 for strengthening veterans courts**; and **\$59,000 for the maintenance of Homelake Veterans Cemetery** in the San Luis Valley. All of these additions were made to the 2018 state budget.

None of our success this session would have been possible without the support of our members and the dedicated work of our Legislative and Executive Committees. Special thanks to all those who did research and came to the Capitol to testify on bills and who contacted legislators to support the positions taken by the UVC. Although we had one of the most successful legislative sessions in the history of our organization, we will not be resting on our laurels. We are moving forward with efforts to reach more veterans across the state and better engage our member organizations and their membership. We hope that by continuing to focus on

increasing the UVC's engagement with veteran communities across the state, greater participation in local veteran service organizations and a greater representation of veterans issues at the Capitol will be the result.

REPORT:

This report contains a short list of bills and resolutions and a detailed list of bills and resolutions broken down in the following parts:

PART I – contains House and Senate Bills supported by the UVC that passed through the General Assembly and have been signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper,

PART II – contains House and Senate Bills that the UVC held a stance on that were either “POSTPONED INDEFINITELY” by a subcommittee or “LOST” on a second or third reading on the floor of the House or Senate, and

PART III – contains House and Senate Resolutions and Memorials, all of which passed through both chambers of the General Assembly and were signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.

If you have any questions or comments on the report, please contact David Ortiz, UVC's Legislative Liaison, at (910) 705-0570 or uvclegliaison@gmail.com.

PART I: - HOUSE & SENATE BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

HB 17-1004: COLLEGE CREDIT FOR MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

HB 17-1054: COMMUNITY-MILITARY COOPERATION

HB 17-1056: CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMUNITY SERVICE VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

HB 17-1057: INTERSTATE PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT

HB 17-1149: ARMY SPECIAL FORCES LICENSE PLATE

HB 17-1255: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS BY STATE VETERANS MILITARY AFFAIRS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HB 17-1346: LAND SALE TO FORT LOGAN CEMETERY

SB 17-011: STUDY TRANSPORTATION ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SB 17-028: HEALTHY FAMILIES AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS ACT

SB 17-122: REPEAL FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL COMMISSION

SB 17-174: ALLOCATION OF MONEY FOR NATIONAL GUARD TUITION

SB 17-193: RESEARCH CENTER PREVENTION SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADDICTION

SB 17-207: STRENGTHEN COLORADO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SYSTEM

SB 17-212: SUNSET BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 17-217: SUNSET BOARD OF VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING CENTERS

SB 17-219: SUNSET LOCAL BOARDS VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING CENTERS

SB 17-232: SUNSET BINGO-RAFFLE ADVISORY BOARD

SB 17-234: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS BY DEPT HUMAN SERVICES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SB 17-245: TENANCIES ONE MONTH TO ONE YEAR NOTICE

SB 17-254: 2017-2018 LONG APPROPRIATIONS BILL

SB 17-264: FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER SERVICES

PART II: - HOUSE & SENATE BILLS “POSTPONED INDEFINITELY” OR “LOST”

HB 17-1168: CRIMINAL COURT PROCEDURES FOR MILITARY DEFENDANTS

HB 17-1305: LIMITS ON JOB APPLICANT CRIMINAL HISTORY INQUIRIES

HB 17-1374: COLORADO HEROES HUNTING & FISHING ACT

SB 17-006: CONCEALED CARRY FOR MILITARY UNDER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE

SB 17-053: ASBESTOS LITIGATION TRUST TRANSPARENCY PRIORITIES

SB 17-054: CREATE ROTATION SCHEDULE FOR TAX CHECKOFF PROGRAMS

SB 17-075: INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS

SB 17-081: RURAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

SB 17-118: INFORMATION ON PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS

PART III: - HOUSE & SENATE RESOLUTIONS & MEMORIALS.

HJR 17-1005: MILITARY DAY 2017

HJR 17-1006: USS PUEBLO

HJR 17-1007: 100 YEARS OF 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

HJR 17-1008: RECOGNIZING CANADA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL AND NORAD

HJR 17-1009: 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

HJR 17-1010: COLORADO DEFENSE INDUSTRY

HJR 17-1011: 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF US AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND

HJR 17-1012: FALLEN SOLDIERS 2017

HJR 17-1014: UPDATE NAME OF POLICY SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

HJR 17-1028: HONORING GOLD STAR FAMILIES

HJR 17-1030: CHILDREN OF FALLEN MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

HJR 17-1031: DESIGNATE THE LIEUTENANT JIM DOWNING BRIDGE

SJR 17-008: JORDAN BEAR BRIDGE

SJR 17-019: COLORADO AEROSPACE DAY

SJR 17-020: TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMEMORATION DAY

SJR 17-028: SPACE SYMPOSIUM

SJR 17-039: COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR

SM 17-001: LEGAL RESIDENT MILITARY VETERAN DEPORTATION

SM 17-003: CAMP HALE NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

PART I: - HOUSE & SENATE BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

BILL [HB17-1004](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: College Credit For Military Education And Training

Sponsors: D. Michaelson Jenet | J. Danielson / O. Hill | L. Garcia

The bill requires the governing board of each institution of higher education to adopt, make public, and implement a prior learning assessment (PLA) policy for awarding academic credit for college-level learning acquired while in the military. The policy adopted by each institution's governing board must require the school to use the American Council on Education's (ACE) recommendations on the joint services transcript (JST) and, at its discretion, assign appropriate credit to each student. Further, the institutions shall provide specific guidance to active duty and veteran military members in selecting a program of study and optimizing PLA credit. Finally, the institutions shall accept in transfer from other state institutions PLA credit awarded for courses with guaranteed-transfer designation, unless the Colorado Commission on Higher Education adopts a new policy prior to June 1, 2018. This policy concerns the transfer of prior learning assessment credit for courses with guaranteed-transfer designation that requires each campus to accept in transfer credit awarded by a state institution of higher education pursuant to the provisions concerning the use of ACE's JST.

During the 2018 legislative session, the Department of Higher Education shall report to certain committees of the General Assembly concerning the policies adopted by the institutions.

Status - 6/1/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [HB17-1054](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Community-military Cooperation

Sponsors: T. Carver | D. Nordberg / N. Todd

The bill directs the Department of Local Affairs to support cooperative intergovernmental agreements between military installations and local governments of host communities within the state, to the extent that the department may do so within existing programs, resources, and technical expertise. It finds that partnerships between military installations and their host communities in the state with regard to the shared-service opportunities that can cut costs and increase efficiencies in providing governmental services.

Status - 3/16/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [HB17-1056](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Criminal Sentencing Community Service Veterans Organizations

Sponsors: M. Weissman / B. Gardner | J. Kefalas

Prior to passage of this bill, only an organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code (tax code) may accept services offered through a program of community or useful public service operated by a county court, probation department, county sheriff, or other local governmental entity in connection with sentencing for specified misdemeanors. Veterans' service organizations may be organized under other provisions of the tax code such as section 501 (c)(4) or 501 (c)(19).

The bill expands the criteria for organizations that may accept community or useful public service assignments to include veterans' service organizations organized under 501 (c)(4) or 501 (c)(19) of the tax code, and specifies that the court or other entity making the assignment retains discretion to determine which organizations may be included in its program of community or useful public service.

Status - 3/20/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [HB17-1057](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Interstate Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

Sponsors: F. Winter | L. Liston / B. Gardner | A. Kerr

The bill enacts the 'Interstate Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Act' to allow physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who are authorized in a compact member state to practice physical therapy in Colorado. The compact requires that a state's physical therapy board participate in the compact's data system and notify the compact commission of any adverse action taken by the board. The bill serves to facilitate the financial stability and career development of service members (SM) and their family members and dependents, who often must move multiple times across the country and abroad throughout the career of the SM and still maintain the practice of their profession.

Status - 5/10/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [HB17-1149](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Army Special Forces License Plate

Sponsors: T. Exum | D. Michaelson Jenet / B. Gardner

Ensures that only those that have completed the special forces training regimen (those who are not special forces support staff) are allowed to apply for and obtain the US Army Special Forces license plate. Currently, the Department of Revenue issues special license plates to members and veterans of the United States Army special forces. The plates are restricted to people whose orders or DD214 form show an awarded prefix '3' or suffix 'S' or a designation of '5G', 18/180 series MOS, special forces tab, OSS, or UNPIK-8240. The bill removes the ability to get the special license plate based on an awarded 'S' suffix.

Status - 4/4/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [HB17-1255](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Reporting Requirements By State Veterans Military Affairs To General Assembly

Sponsors: D. Nordberg / A. Kerr

This bill ensures the continuation of a report by the Board of Veterans Affairs reporting on the status of all programs that provide services to the state's veterans, including but not limited to any recommendations for changes to policies, procedures, or law made to the governor, the House Committee on State, Veterans, and Military Affairs, and the Senate Committee on State, Veterans, and Military Affairs.

Status - 5/25/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [HB17-1346](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Land Sale To Fort Logan Cemetery

Sponsors: S. Lontine / O. Hill

House Bill 16-1456, enacted in 2016, granted the Department of Human Services the authority to sell up to 15 acres around the Colorado mental health institute at Fort Logan to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of expanding the Fort Logan national cemetery. This bill, HB17-1346 grants the Department of Human Services authority to execute a land sale at fair market value to sell 51 additional acres, or up to 66 acres. The bill then creates the Fort Logan Land Sale account in the Capital Construction Fund and specifies that the money in the fund may be used for future capital construction, capital renewal, or controlled maintenance expenses of the department of human services, contingent upon approval by both the Office of State Planning and Budgeting and the Capital Development Committee. The bill further specifies that all or a portion of the money must be expended for veterans-related and behavioral health-related projects.

Status - 5/25/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-011](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Study Transportation Access For People With Disabilities

Sponsors: K. Lambert / P. Lawrence

The bill creates a technical demonstration forum consisting of eight members to study and document how advanced technologies can improve transportation access for people with disabilities. The forum consists of the following agency officers or their designees:

- The executive director of the Department of Labor and Employment, who serves as chair of the forum;
- The executive director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, who serves as vice-chair of the forum;
- The director of the Public Utilities Commission;
- The chief information officer of the Office of Information Technology;
- The executive director of the Department of Human Services;
- The director of the Division of Veterans Affairs;
- The superintendent of The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind; and
- The executive director of the Department of Transportation.

To demonstrate the transportation access needs of people with disabilities in both urban and rural areas of the state, the forum is directed to study the transportation access needs of people with disabilities in El Paso and Teller counties and explore technological and transportation business solutions that could increase transportation access for people with disabilities in those areas. On or before December 31, 2017, the forum is required to publish a report of its research and findings, including the results of any pilot projects and any legislative recommendations developed, and to furnish copies of the report to the governor, members of the General Assembly's majority and minority leadership, and the members of the Joint Budget Committee.

Effective July 1, 2018, the forum and its responsibilities are repealed.

Status - 3/20/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-028](#)**Position:** Support**Short Title:** Healthy Families And Military Preparedness Act**Sponsors:** B. Gardner / D. Nordberg | T. Exum

The bill requires the State Department of Human Services and county departments of human or social services to collect and share information with the command authority of national military installations regarding any received reports of known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect in which the person having custody or control of the child is a member of the armed forces residing in that military installation or a spouse, significant other or family member residing in the home of the member of the armed forces assigned to that installation. The state department and county departments may establish protocols that better enable the sharing of information and may collaborate on the investigations into potential child abuse or neglect by a member of the armed forces or a spouse, a significant other or family member residing in the home of the member of the armed forces. This bill authorizes and encourages open communication between the State Dept. of Human Services, county depts., and command authority of military installations to better serve children and families of Colorado.

Status - 6/5/2017 Governor Signed**BILL [SB17-122](#)****Position:** Support**Short Title:** Repeal Fallen Heroes Memorial Commission**Sponsors:** J. Tate / J. Danielson | T. Carver

The bill repeals the Fallen Heroes Memorial Commission, as the work of the commission is mostly complete. The bill requires the State Capitol Building Advisory Committee to take on any remaining duties of the commission and perform them with the assistance of the Department of Personnel and the Fallen Heroes Memorial Fund, Inc., a Colorado 501(c)(3) organization established to raise money for the construction of the memorial.

Status - 3/30/2017 Governor Signed**BILL [SB17-174](#)****Position:** Support**Short Title:** Allocation Of Money For National Guard Tuition**Sponsors:** K. Lambert / M. Hamner

Under current law, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education is prohibited from allocating more than \$800,000 annually for purpose of providing tuition assistance to members of the National Guard. This bill removes statutory provisions relating to the limit on appropriations and the commission's allocation of money for the tuition assistance program.

Status - 3/1/2017 Governor Signed**BILL [SB17-193](#)****Position:** Support**Short Title:** Research Center Prevention Substance Abuse Addiction**Sponsors:** C. Jahn | K. Lundberg / B. Pettersen | B. Rankin

The bill recognizes the significant public health concern opioid abuse poses across the state, as well as the fact that in, addition to opioids, abuse of prescription drugs, alcohol, methamphetamine, cocaine, and other illicit drug is higher in Colorado than in other states. The bill recognizes that there is a lack of sufficient research on the most effective strategies for addressing substance use disorders and the need for such research, and thus establishes the Center for Research into Substance Use Disorder Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support Strategies at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Status - 5/18/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-207](#)

Position: Support

Short Title: Strengthen Colorado Behavioral Health Crisis System

Sponsors: J. Cooke | D. Kagan / J. Salazar | L. Sias

The bill appropriates more than \$7 million to the Office of Behavioral Health in the Department of Human Services to expand the statewide crisis system, which is intended to provide an appropriate first line of response to individuals in need of an emergency 72-hour mental health hold, puts systems in place to help Colorado end the use of jails and correctional facilities as placement options for individuals placed under an emergency mental health hold if the individual has not also been charged with a crime. The bill better equips law enforcement to respond to individual in mental health crisis.

The goal of the statewide crisis system is to strengthen community partnerships and ensure that first responders are equipped with a variety of options for addressing behavioral health crises so that they meet the needs of the individual in a clinically appropriate setting.

The bill expands and strengthens the current crisis system in the following ways:

- Increases the ability of all crisis services facilities, including walk-in centers, acute treatment units, and crisis stabilization units to adequately care for an individual brought to the facility in need of an emergency 72-hour mental health hold;
- Recognizes the obligations of hospitals and hospital-based emergency departments under federal law to screen and stabilize every patient who comes to the hospital-based emergency department, including those patients experiencing a behavioral health crisis; and
- Requires that, on or before January 1, 2018, all walk-in centers throughout the state be appropriately designated, adequately prepared, and properly staffed to accept an individual in need of an emergency 72-hour mental health hold.

Status - 5/18/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-212](#)

Position: Support

Short Title: Sunset Board Of Veterans Affairs

Sponsors: L. Crowder / M. Weissman

The bill implements the recommendations of the sunset review and report on the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs by eliminating the repeal date of the Board and extending the Board indefinitely.

Status - 6/1/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-217](#)

Position: Support

Short Title: Sunset Board Of Veterans Community Living Centers

Sponsors: L. Garcia / D. Michaelson Jenet

The bill implements the recommendations of the sunset review and report on the Colorado Board of Commissioners of Veterans Community Living Centers by eliminating the repeal date of the Board and extending the Board indefinitely.

Status - 6/1/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-219](#)

Position: Support

Short Title: Sunset Local Boards Veterans Community Living Centers

Sponsors: L. Garcia | O. Hill / S. Lontine

The bill implements the recommendations of the sunset review and report on the advisory boards for veterans community living centers by eliminating the repeal date of each such board and extending each such board indefinitely.

Status - 6/5/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-232](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Sunset Bingo-Raffle Advisory Board

Sponsors: S. Fenberg / P. Rosenthal

The bill implements the recommendations of the sunset review and report on the licensing of bingo and other games of chance through the Secretary of State by: extending the automatic termination date of the Colorado Bingo-Raffle Advisory Board to September 1, 2024, reducing the number of times that the board must meet each year from 6 to 2, and specifying that a Veteran Service Organization that has been in existence continuously whose license has been revoked or surrendered in lieu of revocation need only wait for a maximum period of one year before reapplying for a license.

Status - 5/23/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-234](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Reporting Requirements By Department Human Services To General Assembly

Sponsors: A. Kerr / D. Thurlow

The bill concerns a collection of reports made regularly by the State Department of Human Services to the Colorado General Assembly. The bill describes two reports that the department shall prepare and submit to the General Assembly, which are

(1) Report of financial status of veterans centers. This annual report must detail the financial status of each of the state's veterans centers, and must also identify which of the veterans centers are owned by the state but operated under contract by another entity.

(2) Report of expenditures from the sale of 15 acres at Fort Logan (as authorized under HB16-1456). Any nonrecurring expenditures made that address the needs of veterans must be reported to the General Assembly sixty days prior to the expenditure. The department shall report its recommended use of the state proceeds to the House Committees on State, Veterans, and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on State, Veterans, and Military Affairs, the Capital Development Committee, and the Joint Budget Committee.

Status - 4/28/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-245](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Tenancies One Month To One Year Notice

Sponsors: K. Priola / D. Pabon

Under current law, a residential tenancy of one month or more but less than six months may be terminated by either landlord or lessee with seven days notice. This practice hurts veterans who are in one form of transition or another, including but not limited to: veterans transitioning out of homelessness, newly disabled veterans looking for ADA compliant housing or those who are having ADA renovations made to their home; veterans who have a prison record and have difficulty finding long term housing, all veterans who are transitioning out of the military into civilian life. This bill extends the minimum time required for a notice of termination to 21 days. The bill also requires 21 days notice for a landlord to increase rent in tenancies of one month or longer, but less than one year, and where there is no written agreement between the landlord and the tenant.

Status - 6/5/2017 Governor Signed

BILL [SB17-254](#)**Position:** Support**Short Title:** 2017-18 Long Bill (State Budget) Appropriations**Sponsors:** K. Lambert / M. Hamner

This bill provides funding for the state of Colorado budget to include but not limited to: \$15.3 million in housing for those that suffer from substance abuse issues; \$300,000 in additional funding for County Veterans Service Officers; approx. \$475,000 for strengthening veterans courts; and \$59,000 for maintenance of Homelake Cemetery.

Status - 5/26/2017 Governor Signed**BILL [SB17-264](#)****Position:** Support**Short Title:** Funding For Behavioral Mental Health Disorder Services**Sponsors:** D. Moreno / D. Young

The bill clarifies that the authorized purposes for which the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund may be used include behavioral health services. The bill also repeals the Offender Mental Health Services Fund, which no longer has a revenue source, and directs the remaining money in the fund to be transferred to the General Fund.

Status - 6/5/2017 Governor Signed**PART II: - HOUSE & SENATE BILLS “POSTPONED INDEFINITELY” OR “LOST”****BILL [HB17-1168](#)****Position:** Support**Short Title:** Criminal Court Procedures For Military Defendants**Sponsors:** P. Lee | L. Landgraf

This bill would have allowed that if a court determines that a criminal defendant is currently serving in the United States armed forces or is a veteran, if that defendant has suffered sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems while in the service of the United States armed forces, and if the defendant is eligible for probation, then the court shall consider such fact favorably in determining whether to grant probation and in assessing whether he or she should be ordered into a federal or community-based treatment service program. The bill would also have allowed a court to order the criminal conviction records of a military defendant to be sealed when certain conditions are satisfied.

Status - 3/14/2017 Postponed Indefinitely by House Committee on Judiciary**BILL [HB17-1305](#)****Position:** Monitor**Short Title:** Limits On Job Applicant Criminal History Inquiries**Sponsors:** J. Melton | M. Foote / L. Guzman

This bill would have prohibited an employer with 15 or more employees from stating in a job posting or on any form of application that a person with a criminal history may not apply for the position, and would have prohibited the employer from inquiring into or requiring disclosure of an applicant's criminal history on an initial application. These rules would not apply if an employer is advertising a position that federal, state, or local law prohibits individuals with specific criminal convictions from holding. The Department of Labor and Employment would have been charged with enforcing the requirements of the bill and may issue warnings and orders of compliance for violations and, for second or subsequent violations, impose civil penalties. A violation of the restrictions would not create a private cause of action, and the bill would not have created a protected class under employment anti-discrimination laws. The department would have been directed to

adopt rules regarding procedures for handling complaints against employers.
Status - 5/1/2017 Postponed Indefinitely by Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

BILL [HB17-1374](#)

Position: **Monitor**

Short Title: Colorado Heroes Hunting & Fishing Act

Sponsors: J. Danielson | B. McLachlan

The bill would have granted veterans of the armed forces a free lifetime license for small-game hunting and fishing, or any big-game license that the veteran could qualify for under rules of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, provided that the veteran had been a resident of Colorado for at least the previous 2 years, had served in the armed forces for at least 2 years, and was separated under honorable conditions.

Status - 5/8/2017 Lost in House Committee on Appropriations (not brought to a vote)

BILL [SB17-006](#)

Position: **Monitor**

Short Title: Concealed Carry For Military Under Twenty-one Years Of Age

Sponsors: J. Cooke / L. Sias | D. Nordberg

Under current law, an applicant for a concealed handgun permit must satisfy certain criteria, including a requirement that he or she be at least 21 years of age. This bill would have amended that age requirement to state that the applicant must be either twenty-one years of age or older or eighteen years of age or older and on active duty in, or honorably discharged from, any branch or reserve branch of the United States military forces, including the National Guard.

Status - 3/22/2017 Postponed Indefinitely by House Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

BILL [SB17-053](#)

Position: **Oppose**

Short Title: Asbestos Litigation Trust Transparency Priorities

Sponsors: J. Sonnenberg

The bill would have enacted the 'Asbestos Bankruptcy Trust Claims Transparency Act,' which gives a defendant in a civil proceeding access to information regarding a plaintiff's claims against one or more asbestos bankruptcy trusts, which are trusts established as part of the bankruptcy plans of companies who may be subject to asbestos litigation and have to pay asbestos claims. The trusts pay present and future asbestos-related claims, thus relieving the reorganized company of all present and future asbestos-related liabilities. Plaintiffs may also file asbestos-related personal injury actions against companies that are still solvent and subject to suit in the civil system. The bill would have addressed this dual compensation system to give defendants access to information regarding all of a plaintiff's trust-related exposures and give fact finders information they need to properly assign fault, and would have put the onus of proof on the plaintiff, with strict guidelines of information that they would have to supply for their claim to be processed.

Veterans makes up less than 8% of the population yet they comprise over 30% of known asbestos deaths in the United States. This number, though staggering, is the result from asbestos having been the substance of choice used by the Department of Defense for fireproofing and insulation on virtually every ship, building, tank, and transport vehicle commissioned by the United States between WWII and the Korean War. The UVC opposed this bill because it would have made it more difficult for veterans suffering through asbestos related illness to win legal battles over their asbestos-relative injuries, secure funds needed to cover their healthcare.

Status - 2/22/2017 Lost on Senate floor during Second Reading

BILL [SB17-054](#)

Position: **Oppose**

Short Title: Create Rotation Schedule For Tax Checkoff Programs

Sponsors: L. Court / J. Wilson

The Colorado individual income tax return allows taxpayers to contribute to various listed organizations by donating a portion of their income tax refund or increasing the amount owed on their tax return. Only 20 checkoff programs can appear on an individual income tax form each year. If more programs exist than the form can accommodate, the excess programs are placed in a queue, prioritizing continued or renewed programs over new ones, until a slot on the form becomes available. This bill would have revised the tax checkoff program so that nonprofit organizations on the 20 participant list would have been rotated off every 5 years. After a 5-year hiatus, they would be eligible to return to the program. The 'tax checkoff program', appears on the state individual income tax return form. The UVC opposed this bill because it would have put the The Military Family Relief Fund in serious jeopardy.

Status - 2/14/2017 Postponed Indefinitely by Senate Committee on Finance

BILL [SB17-075](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Income Tax Deduction For Military Retirement Benefits

Sponsors: L. Crowder / L. Landgraf | J. Danielson

This bill would have created an additional deduction under which a retired service member/veteran that is 54 and younger years of age may deduct up to \$20,000.00 of military retirement benefits from his or her state income tax per year. The starting point for determining state income tax liability is federal taxable income. That adjusted income is used to determine Colorado taxable income, the amount of which is multiplied by the state's 4.63% income tax rate. Currently, a person who is 55-64 years old may deduct up to \$20,000 of retirement benefits from federal taxable income, and a person who is 65 years old or older may deduct up to \$24,000. These limits apply to retirement benefits from all sources, including those related to service in the military.

Unfortunately, this bill was lost when the House Committee on Appropriations did not allow it to come forward for a vote.

Status - 4/26/2017 Lost in House Committee on Appropriations (not brought to a vote)

BILL [SB17-081](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Rural Broadband Deployment

Sponsors: K. Donovan / K. Becker | J. Arndt

This bill would have increased the availability and reliability of broadband internet access in rural areas of Colorado. It would have updated how the Public Utilities Commission makes an effective competition determination for high cost support mechanism (HCSM) funding- the financial assistance provided to telecommunications companies that provide basic telephone service or broadband service in areas that lack effective competition. Broadband access is a critical issue for rural veterans, especially in light of more of the VAs services, including Myhealthvet and online refill prescription services, and will become more relevant as the VA continues to expand its online services.

Status - 2/22/2017 Postponed Indefinitely by Senate Committee on Business, Labor, & Technology

BILL [SB17-118](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Information On Private Occupational Schools

Sponsors: R. Fields / M. Weissman

The bill would have expanded the information that Private Occupational Schools are required provide to prospective students before the student enrolls in a program to include, in part: program completion rates,

post-graduation employment rates, average and median student loan debt, loan repayment rates, and legal barriers to entry into an occupation for which the school provides a training program.

The Division of Private Occupational Schools in the Department of Higher Education would collect the data and any other data requested by the department to populate a postsecondary education and training comparative tool created in the bill. The comparative tool would have been a free, public, online resource that allowed prospective students and interested persons to access information regarding Colorado's schools of higher education to assist them in making informed decisions about postsecondary education and training program options in the state.

Status - 2/13/2017 Postponed Indefinitely by Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

PART III: HOUSE & SENATE RESOLUTIONS & MEMORIALS

BILL [HJR17-1005](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Military Day 2017

Sponsors: M. Foote | K. Ransom / V. Marble | L. Guzman

The Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly resolves to 1. extend heartfelt gratitude to Colorado's veterans, past and present, to all military men and women currently serving in the Armed Services, and to the family members of active duty personnel and veterans and that we remember and honor those prisoners of war and those missing in action from previous conflicts 2. express continued partnership with and support of Fort Carson and 3. encourage the citizens of CO to join in the celebration of CO's Military, Veterans, and MIA/POW Appreciation Day on 27 Jan, 2017. Military Day 2017 was well-attended, and we look forward to further promoting the mission of this event next year.

Status - 2/2/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1006](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: U.S.S. Pueblo

Sponsors: D. Esgar | C. Navarro / L. Garcia | B. Gardner

The Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly resolves to 1. recognize the bravery and sacrifice of the crew of the USS Pueblo 2. take pride in the fact that the USS Pueblo bears the name of a city in CO, the citizens of CO should be aware of incident that occurred with the USS Pueblo 49 years ago 3. continue the call for Kim Jong Un and the North Korean government to return the USS Pueblo to the people of the US and 4. hereby designate Jan 23 of each year as "USS Pueblo Day".

Status - 2/2/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1007](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: 100 Years Of 4th Infantry Division

Sponsors: T. Exum | P. Neville / D. Kagan | L. Crowder

The Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly resolves to 1. extend gratitude for the dedicated service of all past and present members of the 4th Infantry Division and 2. express continued support for the 4th Infantry Division.

Status - 2/2/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1008](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Recognizing Canada's Sesquicentennial And NORAD

Sponsors: P. Lee | J. Wilson / M. Merrifield | K. Lambert

The Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly resolves to 1. join our Canadian friends and allies in celebration of the one hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Canada's autonomous governance 2. commend the Canadian armed forces for their resolute defense of North America and 3. recognize continued importance of a defense partnership between the United States and Canada.

Status - 2/2/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1009](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: 75th Anniversary Of Pearl Harbor

Sponsors: D. Michaelson Jenet | D. Williams / R. Zenzinger | C. Holbert

The Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly resolves to 1. extend heartfelt gratitude for the service and sacrifice of all those who experienced the attack on Pearl Harbor and 2. remain dedicated to preserving the memory of this event. 3. Honor and remember the 75th anniversary.

Status - 2/2/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1010](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Colorado Defense Industry

Sponsors: S. Lontine | Y. Willett / N. Todd | O. Hill

The Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly resolves to 1. recognize the positive impact that the military and defense-related industry has had on our state and 2. encourage the continued growth of the military and defense-related industry in Colorado.

Status - 2/2/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1011](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: 35th Anniversary Of US Air Force Space Command

Sponsors: T. Carver | M. Weissman / K. Lambert | R. Fields

The Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly resolves to 1. recognize the United States Air Force (USAF) Space Command for its 35 year of service to our country and 2. express pride in Colorado's role in the USAF Command's mission and its gratitude for men and women of the USAF.

Status - 2/2/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1012](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Fallen Soldiers 2017

Sponsors: S. Lebsack | L. Sias / K. Donovan | K. Grantham

The Colorado General Assembly resolves to 1. remember and honor the sacrifices of: Cpt Andrew David Byers, SFC Ryan Allen Gloyer, SSgt Adam Samuel Thomas, SSgt Christopher Alexander Wilber, and all Coloradans who have give their lives in service to their country 2. express sympathy to families and friends of service members who have died and 3. honor the service, dedication, and valor of all military personnel from Colorado who have served and are currently serving in military operations around the world.

Status - 2/2/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1028](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Honoring Gold Star Families

Sponsors: L. Saine | J. Danielson / V. Marble

In 1936, Gold Star Mother's Day was honored, through presidential proclamation, as the last Sunday of each September. The members of the Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly resolve to 1. honor the pride and the pain of the parents and partners and children and siblings of our fallen heroes and 2. recognize the families of these proud patriots with an expression of profound gratitude and respect.

Status - 5/18/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1030](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Children Of Fallen Military Service Members

Sponsors: L. Landgraf | M. Weissman / B. Gardner | R. Fields

While fallen military service members make the ultimate sacrifice, the long-term impact of this devastating loss on the service member's children is often overlooked. According to the Survivor Outreach Services Office at Fort Carson, more than 300 children of fallen service members live in Colorado, and the average age of these children at the time of their parental loss is seven years old. A child who suffers the traumatic loss of a parent is three times more likely to face depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, and children who have lost a parent while the parent was serving in the U.S. Armed Forces are at a higher risk for struggles with anxiety, substance abuse, criminal behavior, school underachievement, and suicide. Several nonprofit organizations have stepped in to offer financial and social services for these bereaved children, such as college scholarship opportunities and brief social outings like week-long camps, but only one nonprofit organization in Colorado, Angels of America's Fallen, formed with the sole purpose to serve children of fallen military service members not only at their time of loss but also throughout their childhood.

The Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly resolves to (1) recognize the painful sacrifice made by the children of our state's fallen U.S. Armed Forces members (2) commend the honorable work nonprofit organizations do to help provide vital social services for children suffering the loss of a military parent and (3) encourage fellow Coloradans to remember and support the long-term healing process these bereaved children face as they grow up without the daily love and support of their fallen parent.

Status - 5/18/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [HJR17-1031](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Designate The Lieutenant Jim Downing Bridge

Sponsors: D. Nordberg | T. Exum / M. Merrifield | B. Gardner

In 1932, at the age of 19, Jim Downing enlisted in the United States Navy, serving as Gunner's Mate 1st Class and postmaster aboard the U.S.S. West Virginia in Long Beach, California and later becoming a lieutenant.

Lieutenant Downing played a critical role during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, when he fought to keep fires from spreading to live ammunition lockers aboard the U.S.S. West Virginia and to save his fellow servicemen. On that "Day of Infamy," 2,403 people died and another 1,143 were wounded, marking the attack on Pearl Harbor as one of the deadliest foreign attacks on United States soil in modern history.

Lieutenant Downing remained in the Navy for another 16 years, eventually serving as the commanding officer of the U.S.S. Patapsco during the Korean War from 1952 through 1955 before his retirement in 1956. Following his retirement, Lieutenant Downing and his wife, Morena, settled in Colorado Springs and dedicated their lives to helping others deepen their Christian faith through the Navigators ministry. Today at 103 years old, Lieutenant Downing is the 2nd oldest known living survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly hereby resolves (1) that the Cimarron Avenue Bridge spanning Interstate 25 in Colorado Springs be designated as the "Lieutenant James "Jim" Downing Bridge", (2) that the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes

of the initial placement of signs visible from Interstate 25 to mark the bridge as the "Lieutenant James "Jim" Downing Bridge", 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 "Lieutenant James "Jim" Downing Bridge".

Status - 5/18/2017 Signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate

BILL [SJR17-008](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Jordan Bear Bridge

Sponsors: I. Aguilar / S. Lontine

Staff Sergeant Jordan L. Bear was born in Denver, Colorado, on June 7, 1986 and resided in Denver until entering the United States Army in September 2004. Staff Sergeant Bear was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team from February 2007 through April 2008. He became a sergeant in October 2007. On March 1, 2012, Staff Sergeant Bear was killed in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, after three individuals--two Afghan National Army service members and a civilian literacy teacher for the Afghan National Army--turned their weapons on him and another serviceman.

The members of the Sevent-first Colorado General Assembly hereby resolve (1) that the bridge spanning South Raleigh Street in Denver as it enters Bear Creek Park on Colorado State Highway 285 be named the "SSG Jordan L. Bear Memorial Bridge," (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 the bridge as the "SSG Jordan L. Bear Memorial Bridge," and (3) that the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore a cooperative agreement with the City Council of Denver for the maintenance of the markings for the "SSG Jordan L. Bear Memorial Bridge".

Status - 3/2/2017 Signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House

BILL [SJR17-019](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Colorado Aerospace Day

Sponsors: R. Baumgardner | N. Todd / P. Rosenthal | B. Rankin

Colorado is the second-largest state in the country for private aerospace employment. 25,500 Coloradans are directly employed in aerospace, with a total payroll exceeding \$3.4 billion, and Colorado's aerospace industry cluster supports more than 188,000 jobs. Colorado is home to the nation's top aerospace companies and close to 500 additional companies that support the aerospace sector. The United States Air Force Academy along with many of Colorado's colleges and universities including the University of Colorado Boulder and Colorado Springs, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Denver, Colorado Mesa University, and Fort Lewis College provide access to world-class aerospace-related degrees and offer aerospace companies one of the country's most educated workforces. The members of the Seventy-first Colorado General Assembly hereby resolve to (1) strongly urge and request the federal government of the United States of America to take action to preserve and enhance United States leadership in space, spur innovation in aerospace science, and ensure our continued national and economic security by increasing funding for space exploration and activities, (2) recognize and appreciate Colorado's space and aerospace companies and organizations, (3) recognize and appreciate the contributions of Colorado's universities, colleges, and national research laboratories to the space and aerospace industries, including their expertise in exploration of the planets and the universe and space-based Earth observation, (4) express our most sincere and deepest appreciation to the men and women working in and supporting military and civilian aerospace companies and organizations in Colorado, and (5) hereby declare March 20, 2017, to be "Colorado Aerospace Day".

Status - 3/21/2017 Signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House

BILL [SJR17-020](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day

Sponsors: A. Williams / D. Jackson

By the time the United States was drawn into World War II, more African Americans had access to higher education than at any other point in United States history. Many African Americans aspired to serve the war effort with meaningful work in the military, and the rapid expansion of aircraft production to meet the demand for air power during World War II created a great need for military pilots. A public outcry over the discriminatory practice of not allowing African American men to serve as pilots from the African American population, African American media, and fair-minded people of all races resulted in the United States War Department extending the opportunity to fly airplanes to all military members, regardless of race. The Tuskegee Institute in Alabama was one of six historically black colleges and universities chosen to participate in the War Department's Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) Program, which authorized colleges and universities to train their students to increase the number of pilots for the war effort. The CPT Program at Tuskegee helped open the door for the first African American military pilots.

In 1942, the first five African American men received the silver wings of Army Air Force pilots. By the end of World War II in 1946, almost 1,000 African American men had won their silver wings at Tuskegee Army Air Field, and almost half of those African Americans went on to serve as combat mission fighter pilots. The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 sorties, destroyed over 1,000 German aircraft, received hundreds of Air Medals and more than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and lost very few bomber aircraft to enemy air action during escort missions. The outstanding performance record of the Tuskegee Airmen was unprecedented in military aviation history to that time. These airmen disproved every adverse and prejudiced belief that had barred African Americans from becoming pilots prior to World War II. They became one of the most prestigious, decorated, and respected fighting groups of World War II.

The Seventy-first General Assembly of Colorado, in recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen's heroic efforts, designate the fourth Thursday in March as "Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day", March being a special month for the Tuskegee Airmen as it was the month that the first ever Tuskegee cadets received their silver wings.

Status - 3/24/2017 Signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House

BILL [SJR17-028](#)

Position: **Support**

Short Title: Space Symposium

Sponsors: B. Gardner / M. Weissman | T. Carver

Colorado is home to the United States Air Force Space Command, more than 300 aerospace companies, and many supply companies that develop products and systems for commercial, military, and civil space activities. These organizations come together every year for the Space Symposium, which generates approximately \$30 million in economic impact for the local economy.

The Colorado General Assembly Resolves to (1) recognize that April 3, 2017, marks the opening of the 33rd Space Symposium and its position as the premier international space policy and program forum, (2) recognize the important contributions of the space industry to the economy of our state and the welfare of our citizens, and (3) welcome the attendees from all sectors of the space community and from all parts of the world to our beautiful state.

Status - 4/5/2017 Signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House

BILL [SJR17-039](#)

Position: Support

Short Title: Commemorate 50th Anniversary Vietnam War

Sponsors: A. Kerr | L. Crowder / S. Lebsack | T. Carver

On the 42nd anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, the Colorado General Assembly resolves to (1) honor the service and sacrifices of the military veterans who served in Vietnam, including many South Vietnamese soldiers who served alongside American troops, (2) recognize the particular challenges faced by many of these veterans, both while serving in Vietnam and upon returning home, (3) express our appreciation for their fortitude, their activism on behalf of fellow veterans, their steadfast patriotism, and the many accomplishments, contributions, and leadership that these veterans have made to their families, community organizations, and the state, and (4) encourage all Coloradans to remember the sacrifices made by Vietnam veterans on April 30, 2017, the 42nd anniversary marking the end of the Vietnam War, and to continue to participate in the ongoing 50th anniversary Commemoration activities to pay solemn tribute to, and to never forget, the veterans of the Vietnam War.

Status - 5/1/2017 Signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House

BILL [SM17-001](#)

Position: Support

Short Title: Legal Resident Military Veteran Deportation

Sponsors: L. Crowder

Veterans of the United States military are not always United States citizens, some are legal residents of the United States who have not been granted citizenship. During World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, and Iraq as well as other conflicts, many of these veterans served with honor and distinction. Over 500,000 foreign-born veterans of the United States military resided in the United States in 2016. Each year, around 8,000 noncitizens enlist in the military. Most of these veterans are honorably discharged, some are even decorated for their service, but some of these veterans face deportation by the Department of Homeland Security because of old or minor misdemeanor records, including those that predate their military service. Honorable service should be weighed in the balance when making the decision as to whether to deport a legal resident.

The Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado (1) hereby declares support for addressing this situation in a way that recognizes the sacrifices made by veterans and honors their service, (2) recognizes the need to uphold our nation's values and the high standards for our citizens and immigrant population, (3) recognizes that the criminal justice system, particularly veterans' courts, have moved on a path toward restorative justice, (4) urges that misdemeanor convictions for acts that are not crimes against persons or violent misdemeanors, and particularly misdemeanor convictions for which an honorably discharged veteran has participated in a restorative justice program, should be excused in evaluating whether to deport an honorably discharged veteran who is a legal resident, and (5) further requests that President Donald J. Trump, the Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security adopt protocols to thoroughly evaluate, based on the above considerations and on a case-by-case basis, honorably discharged veterans who are legal residents and have old or minor misdemeanor offenses before making the decision to deport them.

Status - 3/28/2017 Signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House

BILL [SM17-003](#)

Position: Support

Short Title: Camp Hale National Historic Landscape

Sponsors: K. Donovan

Tucked in a high mountain valley south of Minturn in Eagle County, Colorado, Camp Hale was the home base for the renowned World War II 10th Mountain Division, an elite U.S. Army mountain warfare unit. Comprised of thousands of troops who trained intensely to acquire rock climbing, skiing, and other vital mountaineering skills necessary to battle within harsh high-altitude winter conditions, Camp Hale served as a specialized

military training site to prepare soldiers for combat against European Axis forces in mountainous and arctic conditions during World War II. 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. While the 10th Mountain Division has changed in its purpose to reflect the unique military needs of our country following World War II and no longer trains in Colorado, Camp Hale remains a testament to the hard work and remarkable bravery needed to endure in World War II. The historical importance of Camp Hale is complemented by the current need to protect the natural environment surrounding it for future generations of Americans and international visitors captivated by the region's role in American and world history. The Eagle River headwaters within the Camp Hale region are undergoing comprehensive restoration with plans to develop interpretive resources for interested visitors, which will educate Coloradans and visitors from around the world about Camp Hale's uniquely intertwined military, recreational, and ecological history. Camp Hale and its surrounding areas not only serve civilians but also many U.S. veterans who return home with physical and emotional traumas from war and rely on natural surroundings as a healing resource that eases their transition back to civilian life.

The Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado hereby (1) encourages the United States Congress to work together to put into practice U.S. Senator Michael Bennet's working proposal to designate the area around Camp Hale as the nation's first National Historical Landscape, and (2) calls upon the U.S. Congress to support legislation to ensure that this vital historical and cultural resource becomes a national treasure to be enjoyed by future generations.

Status - 4/27/2017 Signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House