

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R26-0186.01 Jessica Chapman x4636

SJR26-011

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Kirkmeyer,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Boesenecker,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-011

101 **CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 34**
102 **BETWEEN WILSON AVE. AND NORTH COUNTY RD. 23H IN**
103 **MEMORY OF SGT. JOHN "JACK" THURMAN.**

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant John "Jack" Ryland Thurman, United States
2 Marine Corps, was born on September 27, 1925, in South Dakota, and
3 passed February 1, 2025, at 99 years old, in Loveland; and

4 WHEREAS, Jack married the love of his life, Carol Jean Meier,
5 on October 22, 1951, and together, the couple raised four children; and

6 WHEREAS, After many decades together, Carol Jean passed June
7 22, 2009; and

8 WHEREAS, Sgt. Thurman was a veteran of World War II, a

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 survivor of Iwo Jima, and one of just a few select soldiers pictured in the
2 iconic "Gung Ho" photo of U.S. Marines atop Japan's Mt. Suribachi
3 mid-battle; and

4 WHEREAS, Jack enlisted on his 18th birthday with the United
5 States Marine Corps at Minnesota's Ft. Snelling; was selected for special
6 forces training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, a group that
7 became known as the original "Carlson's Raiders", and was attached to
8 the 5th Marine Division 27th Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Foxtrot Company,
9 and Headquarters; and

10 WHEREAS, Sgt. Thurman deployed to the Japanese island of Iwo
11 Jima from February 19, 1945, to the end of March 1945, where he was in
12 the first waves of steel "amtracs" (amphibious assault vehicles) that
13 landed on Red Beach 1; and

14 WHEREAS, An advanced infantry sniper, Sgt. Thurman provided
15 coverage for the six original Iwo Jima flag raisers, saved numerous
16 Marines by securing pillboxes and Japanese tunnels, located a strategic
17 map identifying Japanese heavy artillery locations-which impacted the
18 outcome of the war, provided supplies to the front lines, and rescued
19 sailors and Marines from a downed B-29 bomber on Motoyama Airfield
20 No. 1 while under direct fire; and

21 WHEREAS, Sgt. Thurman took mortar wounds to his hip and face
22 during the battle, and his arms numbed from the impact of his M1
23 Carbine rifle itself taking a hit, but he was determined to keep moving
24 forward; and

25 WHEREAS, For his heroism, Sgt. Thurman received a Bronze Star
26 Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal,
27 Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal,
28 in addition to an Honorable Discharge; and

29 WHEREAS, Sgt. Thurman's military memorabilia has been
30 preserved at museums such as the National Museum of the Marine Corps
31 near Quantico, VA; the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.; the
32 Center for American Values in Pueblo; and the Broomfield Veterans
33 Museum; and

34 WHEREAS, After World War II, Sgt. Thurman had a successful
35 career as an architect and designer in Colorado, best known for his

1 involvement with the University of Colorado Engineering Center, the
2 U.S. Marine Corps Memorial in Golden, the Admiral Arleigh Burke
3 Memorial in Boulder, the Black Forest restaurant in Nederland, and
4 several commercial buildings throughout the United States and in
5 Germany; and

6 WHEREAS, Sgt. Thurman remained dedicated to community
7 service as a member or volunteer with organizations including the
8 Boulder and Loveland VFW and American Legion-for which he was
9 appointed Commander and Colorado District Commander, Arvada-based
10 Marine Corps club "Cooper's Troopers", the Marine Corps League, 40/8,
11 Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Veterans Honor Guard, youth sports,
12 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, police and fire departments, and as a guest
13 speaker providing numerous presentations educating children and adults
14 alike; and

15 WHEREAS, Sgt. Thurman served as Grand Marshal of the
16 Larimer County Fair Parade on July 27, 2019, a day subsequently
17 proclaimed as "Sgt. John 'Jack' Thurman Day" by the Larimer County
18 Board of Commissioners; was Veterans Day Grand Marshal for Denver,
19 Loveland, Boulder, and Longmont; and was selected as "Veteran of the
20 Month" twice by FOX31; and

21 WHEREAS, Sgt. Thurman was also honored by President Donald
22 Trump in 2020 during a Colorado Springs rally, recognizing him for his
23 service as an Iwo Jima survivor; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition to his military and civic accomplishments,
25 Sgt. Thurman also was a champion chess player at the University of
26 Colorado and an established author, completed the Bolder Boulder in
27 2016 in a wheelchair pushed by his daughter Karen, and tossed the coin
28 for both a Colorado Buffaloes and a Denver Broncos game; and

29 WHEREAS, Sgt. Thurman also served as a lifelong inspiration for
30 his daughter, Commander Karen Thurman, U.S. Navy (Ret.), who herself
31 served 21 years on active duty, with deployments to Bosnia; Naval
32 Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Okinawa; and Iraq; and

33 WHEREAS, Sgt. Thurman, a member of the Greatest Generation,
34 will be remembered for his heroism, courage, dedication, strong faith,
35 humble compassion, and his significant impact on our American history;
36 now, therefore,

1 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly*
2 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

3 (1) That the portion of U.S. Highway 34 between Wilson Ave. and
4 North County Rd. 23H be designated as the "Sgt. John 'Jack' Thurman
5 Memorial Highway";

6 (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept
7 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial
8 placement of signs to mark the portion of U.S. Highway 34 between
9 Wilson Ave. and North County Rd. 23H as the "Sgt. John 'Jack' Thurman
10 Memorial Highway"; and

11 (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore
12 a cooperative agreement with the City of Loveland, Larimer County, or
13 both, for the maintenance of the signs marking the "Sgt. John 'Jack'
14 Thurman Memorial Highway".

15 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
16 to Commander Karen Thurman, Larimer County Commissioner John
17 Kefalas, and Colorado Department of Transportation Executive Director
18 Shoshana Lew.