

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R21-0835.01 Ashley Athey x2291

**SJR21-016**

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**Senate Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-016**

101     **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE INTERSTATE 25 BRIDGE OVER**  
102             **17TH AVENUE AS THE "RICHARD "RJ" LAWRENCE BRIDGE".**

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1             WHEREAS, Richard "RJ" Lawrence was president and CEO of  
2     Lawrence Construction, a family-owned company founded in 1924 and  
3     headquartered in Littleton, Colorado; and

4             WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was a fourth generation Coloradan,  
5     born in Denver, Colorado, to Earl Roger Lawrence and Betty Jo Otto  
6     Lawrence along with siblings Barbara Jo and William Roger; and

7             WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence graduated from Arapahoe High School  
8     in 1974, graduated from Colorado State University in 1978, and earned  
9     his professional engineering license in 1984; and

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

1           WHEREAS, In 1982, RJ Lawrence married Polly Petersen and  
2 they had two children, Anne Kathleen Lawrence and Scott Roger  
3 Lawrence; and

4           WHEREAS, In 1995, RJ Lawrence took over managing Lawrence  
5 Construction full time and worked both in the field and with design  
6 partners to ensure the best outcomes for construction projects across  
7 Colorado; and

8           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was the President of the Colorado  
9 Contractors Association in 2011 and was the Colorado Contractor of the  
10 Year in 2013, and he was a founding member of the Rocky Mountain  
11 Minority Contractor Association to help the industry be more inclusive;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence successfully pioneered fast-track and  
14 design-build technologies that have been well-received in the construction  
15 industry; and

16           WHEREAS, In 1996, he pioneered the 48-hour bridge: Using  
17 pre-cast concrete to replace a bridge over Mitchell Gulch in Douglas  
18 County in 48 hours; and

19           WHEREAS, Lawrence Construction often worked on notable  
20 projects in Colorado, including environmental reclamation work and the  
21 Interstate 25 bridge over 17th Avenue; and

22           WHEREAS, This bridge, sometimes called "Bronco Bridge",  
23 showcases value-engineered pre-cast concrete arches honoring the history  
24 of the original steel arches; and

25           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence pioneered pre-cast, pre-stressed curved  
26 U-tub girders to enhance bridge design and construction; and

27           WHEREAS, The E-470 "flyover" bridge was the first in the world  
28 to have pre-cast curved U-tub girders spliced on the ground and set on  
29 piers; and

30           WHEREAS, The pre-stressed curved U-tub girders used to build  
31 the elevated interchange in Trinidad, Colorado, were the first in the  
32 world; and

1           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was the first to build U-tub girder  
2 bridges for the Nevada/Tejon interchange in Colorado Springs, saving the  
3 state hundreds of thousands of dollars on the project; and

4           WHEREAS, When RJ Lawrence proposed building curved  
5 pre-cast, pre-stressed U-tub girders, he was told it couldn't be done, and  
6 he proved them wrong through engineering; and

7           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was known for his saying, "You can't  
8 hardly"; and

9           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was a pioneer for Colorado's highways  
10 and infrastructure. He was a contractor who inspired innovation through  
11 outside-the-box ideas that have helped to drive Colorado's infrastructure  
12 to new levels. RJ's ideas have shown what is possible in Colorado heavy  
13 civil construction and beyond; and

14           WHEREAS, RJ Lawrence was always proud to be a Colorado  
15 contractor and built some of Colorado's best infrastructure projects; now,  
16 therefore,

17           *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General*  
18 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*  
19 *concurring herein:*

20           (1) That the Interstate 25 bridge over 17th Avenue be officially  
21 designated as the "Richard "RJ" Lawrence Bridge";

22           (2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept  
23 and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial  
24 placement of signs on either side of the bridge for the "Richard "RJ"  
25 Lawrence Bridge"; and

26           (3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore  
27 a cooperative agreement with the city and county of Denver for the  
28 maintenance of the markings for the "Richard "RJ" Lawrence Bridge".

29           *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
30 to his wife, Polly Lawrence; his children Anne Lawrence and Scott  
31 Lawrence; his siblings Barbara Jo Hadley and William Roger Lawrence;  
32 Lawrence Construction; Greg Rees, designer of Bronco Bridge; the City  
33 of Trinidad; the Las Animas County Commissioners, the Colorado

1 Contractors Association, and John Elway, President of Football  
2 Operations for the Denver Broncos.