

Second Regular Session
Sixty-sixth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R08-1144.01 Amanda King

SJR08-028

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Ward,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Looper,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 08-028

101 CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
102 FOR SURVIVORS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,
103 RECOGNIZING THE "GOOD GRIEF CAMP FOR YOUNG
104 SURVIVORS" AND SURVIVOR SEMINAR PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
2 ("TAPS") is America's only veterans service organization organized
3 solely to provide long-term emotional support services to the surviving
4 families of military members who have died while serving our country;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The mission of TAPS is to provide peer support, grief
7 and trauma resources and information, casualty casework assistance, and
8 crisis intervention for all those affected by the death of a loved one
9 serving in the United States armed forces; and

10 WHEREAS, TAPS was founded in 1992 by Mrs. Bonnie Carroll
11 following the death of her husband, Brigadier General Tom Carroll, in an
12 Army C-12 plane crash and has grown into a nationwide support network;

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, 2008

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Through the federal Department of Defense and the
3 federal Department of Veterans Affairs, every family faced with the death
4 of a loved one serving in the United States armed forces receives
5 information about TAPS and its military survivor programs; and

6 WHEREAS, TAPS is a national, private, nonprofit organization
7 that receives no government funding and offers all of its services free of
8 charge; and

9 WHEREAS, Despite the exceptional assistance provided through
10 our government's military and veterans agencies, gaps in support
11 sometimes exist, and often those individuals most in need of answers to
12 complicated questions lack the energy and perseverance to find the
13 necessary information; and

14 WHEREAS, Working hand in hand with the appropriate federal,
15 state, and private agencies, TAPS has been successful in helping to find
16 solutions to problems that arise long after the official casualty case file
17 has been closed; and

18 WHEREAS, TAPS operates with only a small core staff, realizing
19 that follow-up is best done by peers with the empathy and understanding
20 to help those facing a sudden loss; and

21 WHEREAS, The heart of TAPS is the hundreds of surviving
22 family members who have become peer mentors; and

23 WHEREAS, These survivors volunteer their time to reach out to
24 the newly bereaved, offering their most precious gifts, their love and
25 support; and

26 WHEREAS, A significant part of TAPS' mission is to minister to
27 the mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of the children whose average
28 ages range from 6 to 11 years and who have suffered the traumatic death
29 of a parent; and

30 WHEREAS, TAPS holds a national "Good Grief Camp for Young
31 Survivors" and Survivor Seminar for adults annually in Washington,
32 D.C., on Memorial Day weekend; and

33 WHEREAS, Through the "Good Grief Camp for Young
34 Survivors", children learn coping skills through education and
35 age-appropriate grief work activities, develop lasting friendships with
36 others, and learn how America honors its fallen service members; and

37 WHEREAS, Each child is paired with a volunteer military mentor
38 to help the child understand how much the military values the child's
39 sacrifice, and together the children and mentors participate in ceremonies
40 to celebrate the lives and honor the service of their loved ones; and

41 WHEREAS, "The Gary Morris Celebrity Invitational to Benefit
42 TAPS" began in 2006 to raise funds to be used to sponsor an annual

1 regional "Good Grief Camp for Young Survivors" and Survivor Seminar
2 in Colorado at Fort Carson; and

3 WHEREAS, TAPS is fortunate to have the involvement and
4 endorsement of some of Colorado's most prominent patriots; and

5 WHEREAS, With the help of many of Colorado's elected officials,
6 business leaders, corporations, and entertainers from all over the country
7 and through the tireless efforts of a dedicated team of volunteers, "The
8 Gary Morris Celebrity Invitational to Benefit TAPS" has raised \$450,000
9 for TAPS; and

10 WHEREAS, The money raised by "The Gary Morris Celebrity
11 Invitational to Benefit TAPS" sponsored the first Colorado "Good Grief
12 Camp for Young Survivors" and Survivor Seminar at Fort Carson held on
13 August 17-19, 2007, and funded another camp at Fort Carson on April 5,
14 2008; and

15 WHEREAS, The unique, specialized, and comprehensive services
16 provided through TAPS help shattered families move forward with hope
17 and courage, and supporting this organization provides a concrete way for
18 all Americans to express their gratitude for the sacrifices our military
19 families have made; now, therefore,

20 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly*
21 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

22 (1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
23 extend our heartfelt sympathies, support, and appreciation to the families
24 of the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives in military
25 service to our nation;

26 (2) That we fully endorse the TAPS mission of honoring the
27 memory of our fallen heroes through providing comfort, help, and hope
28 to their families; and

29 (3) That we appreciate and support holding an annual, regional
30 TAPS "Good Grief Camp for Young Survivors" and Survivor Seminar at
31 Fort Carson, Colorado, and thank all those involved in providing the
32 on-going funding for this event and in making this opportunity a reality
33 for the families of fallen service members.

34 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
35 to Bonnie Carroll, Founder of TAPS and Chair of the TAPS Board of
36 Directors; Major General Mark Graham, Commanding General of Fort
37 Carson; the Honorable Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of Colorado; the
38 Honorable Mike Coffman, Colorado Secretary of State; the members of
39 Colorado's Congressional delegation; and Lynne and Bo Cottrell,
40 Directors of "The Gary Morris Celebrity Invitational to Benefit TAPS".