

1 JOINT RESOLUTION NO.

2 INTRODUCED BY

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE RETURN OF THE CHET SHORE-GOVERNOR DONALD G. NUTTER MEMORIAL
6 TROPHY HALL, SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE PIONEERS' ROOM, AND THE 163RD INFANTRY
7 REGIMENT ROOM IN THE MONTANA VETERANS' AND PIONEERS' MEMORIAL BUILDING.

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9 WHEREAS, in 1919, the Montana Legislature passed legislation legalizing boxing in the state of
10 Montana, directing a portion of the proceeds to benefit soldiers, sailors, and marines, and generating \$48,000
11 for a future veterans' memorial building; and

12 WHEREAS, funds for a veterans' memorial building began with the Dempsey-Gibbons championship
13 fight in Shelby, Montana, July 4, 1923, and grew with contributions from subsequent boxing matches, including
14 the Fulmer-Giardello fight in 1960; and

15 WHEREAS, the Capitol Building Land Grant Fund, derived from federal land grants, provided
16 substantial funding for state public buildings, including a veterans' memorial building; and

17 WHEREAS, the first legislative approval for a veterans' memorial building came in 1923, with a final act
18 in 1941 establishing the Veterans' Memorial Fund Commission, which set funds aside exclusively for a
19 veterans' memorial building; and

20 WHEREAS, with collaborative advocacy from the Society of Montana Pioneers, Sons and Daughters of
21 Montana Pioneers, Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and
22 American Legion and legislative acts throughout the 1940s, these efforts provided the necessary funding to
23 erect the Veterans' and Pioneers' Memorial Building in Helena, Montana, in 1951; and

24 WHEREAS, various Montana veteran and pioneer organizations assumed occupancy in the Veterans'
25 and Pioneers' Memorial Building in 1953, providing office and exhibit space for veteran organizations and the
26 Montana Historical Society, including a trophy hall dedicated to military artifacts curated by the American
27 Legion; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1963, the Montana Legislature named the trophy hall the Donald G. Nutter Memorial

1 Trophy Hall in honor of Governor Donald G. Nutter, later being renamed by the American Legion as the Chet
2 Shore-Governor Donald G. Nutter Memorial Trophy Hall to additionally honor the service of Adjutant General
3 Chester K. Shore; and

4 WHEREAS, the fourth floor housed veterans' offices, meeting rooms, and military exhibits until 2001,
5 when veterans' offices moved to Fort Harrison, with the Chet Shore-Governor Donald G. Nutter Memorial
6 Trophy Hall, Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers' Room, and the 163rd Infantry Regiment Room intending to
7 remain in place; and

8 WHEREAS, the Veterans' and Pioneers' Memorial Building is scheduled to reopen in 2025 after a 2-
9 year remodel, and the future of the fourth floor, the Chet Shore-Governor Donald G. Nutter Memorial Trophy
10 Hall, Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers' Room, and the 163rd Infantry Regiment Room remains unknown;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Montanans have historically shown extraordinary commitment and sacrifice in all military
13 conflicts since the state's inception, and Montana is home to one of the largest veteran populations in the
14 country per capita and their sacrifice needs to be properly memorialized in the Veterans' and Pioneers'
15 Memorial Building as it was before, pursuant to section 22-3-302, MCA.

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17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
18 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

19 That the Legislature does hereby honor our Montana veterans, their families, and all the organizations
20 and entities that helped erect the Veterans' and Pioneers' Memorial Building and urges the restoration of the
21 Chet Shore-Governor Donald G. Nutter Memorial Trophy Hall, Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers' Room, the
22 163rd Infantry Regiment Room, and all other originally allocated veteran and pioneer spaces on the fourth floor
23 when the Veterans' and Pioneers' Memorial Building reopens.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the
25 Governor, the Adjutant General, the Director of the Montana Historical Society, and each member of the
26 Montana Congressional Delegation.

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