

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DESIGNATING THE NORTH ACADEMY BRIDGE SPANNING INTERSTATE 25 IN COLORADO SPRINGS AS THE “NAVAL AVIATION PILOT AND AVIATION MACHINIST MATE PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS, DANIEL T. GRIFFIN BRIDGE”

WHEREAS, Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel T. Griffin was a resident of Colorado Springs; attended Colorado Springs High School prior to his enlistment in the United States Navy; and served as a naval enlisted pilot of the Navy PBY Catalina assigned to Kaneohe Naval Air Station, Hawaii in 1941; and

WHEREAS, on the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941, Daniel T. Griffin was on duty with his PBY Catalina aircraft, and upon recognition of the ongoing Japanese attack, he attempted to take off in his aircraft but was attacked and shot down by enemy aircraft. After exiting his aircraft, and while swimming to shore, Griffin was shot through the head and killed by enemy aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel T. Griffin is known to be the first Coloradan killed and strongly believed to be the first American Serviceman killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, issued a citation recognizing Griffin’s valor, and in 1943, the United States Navy commissioned the USS Daniel T. Griffin, a Destroyer Escort, in recognition of Griffin’s sacrifice on December 7th; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Griffin’s body was moved from its original burial location in Hawaii and reinterred in Evergreen Cemetery, Colorado Springs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. The City Council supports and urges the State of Colorado to formally designate the North Academy bridge spanning Interstate 25 in Colorado Springs as the “Naval Aviation Pilot and Aviation Machinist Mate Petty Officer First Class Daniel T. Griffin Bridge”

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 25th day of February, 2025.

Randy Helms, Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk