



WHEREAS, at the onset of World War II, the U.S. Army possessed no mountain or ski warfare doctrine and had no training or troops in place for combat in the mountains of Europe; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army set about addressing this shortfall by choosing the Pando Valley in 1942 to train its first and only Mountain Division; and

WHEREAS, the specially selected volunteers of that Division, comprised of our Nation's finest mountaineers, skiers, and outdoorsmen, grew in number to 14,000 strong at Camp Hale and whose unit came to be known as the 10th Mountain Division and whose members came to be known as Ski Troopers; and

WHEREAS, these Ski Troopers of the 10th Mountain Division trained in the harsh Colorado Rocky Mountains to prepare them for combat against our enemies in the Pacific and European Theaters of Operation; and

WHEREAS, those Colorado-trained Ski Troopers scaled the heights of Riva Ridge under the cover of darkness to defeat their opponents in fierce mountain combat to pierce the Gothic Line in Northern Italy; and

WHEREAS, because of their love for our spectacular state, many of these same Ski Troopers returned to Colorado after the war to dedicate themselves to the Colorado outdoor recreation and ski industry, creating new ski areas and services, which to this day support tens of thousands of Coloradoans with careers in our beloved mountains; and

WHEREAS, the crossed bayonet and mountain tab of the 10th Mountain Division was returned to Camp Hale, Colorado in 2015 and bestowed upon the modern-day Ski Troopers of the First Battalion, One Fifty Seventh Infantry (Mountain), Colorado Army National Guard, and who still carry the high mountain standards of the Ski Trooper to this day; and

WHEREAS, in October 2022, the state celebrated the creation of the 53,804 acre Camp Hale and Continental Divide National Monument designated by President Biden, preserving the Camp Hale region's important historic, prehistoric, natural, and recreational values, and building on years of efforts from the descendants of the 10th Mountain Division, Colorado veterans, federal, state and local elected officials, conservation and outdoor recreation leaders, and many others to recognize and preserve this area;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim November 6, 2023 as

10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this sixth day of November, 2023



Jared Polis
Governor