

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1279 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY W. KELLER, CONKLIN, TOEPEL, QUIGLEY, DIGIROLAMO, COHEN, BENNINGHOFF, COX, THOMAS, HENNESSEY, SAMUELSON, MAJOR, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, SANTORA, KINSEY, DRISCOLL, DAVIS, YOUNGBLOOD, KILLION, WHEELAND, SONNEY, DUSH, O'BRIEN, BARRAR, BROWNLEE, MURT, SABATINA, DONATUCCI, CORBIN, WATSON, PAYNE, ELLIS, GOODMAN, A. HARRIS, MAHONEY, BRADFORD, SCHWEYER, VEREB, GILLEN, WHITE, QUINN AND MICCARELLI, JUNE 5, 2015

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 27, 2015

AN ACT

1 Designating a section of Christopher Columbus Boulevard between
2 Oregon Avenue and Washington Avenue in the City of
3 Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, as the William J. Guarnera
4 and Edward James "BABE" Heffron Memorial Boulevard. <--

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. William J. Guarnera and Edward James "BABE" Heffron <--
8 Memorial Boulevard.

9 (a) William J. Guarnera.--The General Assembly finds and
10 declares as follows:

11 (1) Born in South Philadelphia on April 28, 1923,
12 William J. Guarnera, also known as Wild Bill, was the son of
13 the late Joseph and Augusta Guarnera.

14 (2) Mr. Guarnera joined the Citizens Military Training
15 Camp and graduated from South Philadelphia High School in

1 1941 while working for Baldwin Locomotive Works building
2 Sherman tanks for the United States Army.

3 (3) He enlisted in the United States Army on August 31,
4 1942, and served as a Staff Sergeant with Easy Company, 2nd
5 Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, in the 101st
6 Airborne Division during World War II.

7 (4) As a paratrooper, Mr. Guarneri made his first combat
8 jump on D-Day as part of the Allied invasion of France, and
9 he fought during the Battle of Normandy, Operation Market
10 Garden and the Battle of the Bulge.

11 (5) He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with
12 oak leaf cluster, the Purple Heart with two oak leaf
13 clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, the Campaign Medal with
14 three service stars and arrow device, the World War II
15 Victory Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation with oak leaf
16 cluster.

17 (6) Mr. Guarneri was portrayed in the miniseries, Band
18 of Brothers, produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg in
19 2001.

20 (7) He was a beloved family member, dedicated worker and
21 honorable military veteran. He exemplified the best qualities
22 of the human experience.

23 (8) William J. Guarneri passed away at the age of 90 on
24 March 8, 2014. He generously gave his heart and time to
25 enhance the quality of life of his family and community.

26 (b) Mr. Edward ~~James~~ "BABE" Heffron.--The General Assembly <--
27 further finds and declares as follows:

28 (1) Born in South Philadelphia on May 16, 1923, Edward
29 James Heffron, also known as Babe, was the son of the late
30 Joseph and Anne Heffron.

1 (2) Mr. Heffron attended Sacred Heart Catholic School
2 and South Philadelphia High School.

3 (3) Mr. Heffron was employed with New York Shipbuilding
4 in Camden, New Jersey, before enlisting in the United States
5 Army on November 7, 1942.

6 (4) He served as a Private First Class with Easy
7 Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, in
8 the 101st Airborne Division during World War II.

9 (5) Mr. Heffron fought in several battles, including
10 Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge, and was
11 involved in the liberation of the Kaufering concentration
12 camp in Landsberg, Germany.

13 (6) For his gallant service, Mr. Heffron received the
14 Bronze Star, Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal and the
15 European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

16 (7) He was also portrayed in the miniseries, Band of
17 Brothers, in 2001.

18 (8) A beloved family member, dedicated worker and
19 honorable military veteran, Mr. Heffron exemplified the best
20 qualities of the human experience.

21 (9) Mr. Heffron passed away at the age of 90 on December
22 1, 2013.

23 (c) Designation.--The section of Christopher Columbus
24 Boulevard between Oregon Avenue and Washington Avenue in the
25 City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, is hereby designated
26 as the William J. Guarneri and Edward ~~James~~ "BABE" Heffron <--
27 Memorial Boulevard.

28 (d) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
29 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the boulevard
30 designated in subsection (c).

1 Section 2. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect in 60 days.