

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2072

Sponsor: SENATOR SOLOBAY

Printer's No. 3763

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 12, by striking out "AND"

2 Amend Bill, page 1, line 14, by striking out the period after
3 "BRIDGE" and inserting

4 ; and designating the bridge crossing the Lackawanna River
5 along 8th Avenue, also known as U.S. Business Route 6, in
6 downtown Carbondale, Lackawanna County, as the 109th Infantry
7 Bridge.

8 Amend Bill, page 6, by inserting between lines 8 and 9

9 Section 6. 109th Infantry Bridge.

10 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly finds and declares as
11 follows:

12 (1) The 109th Infantry Regiment constitutes one of four
13 regiments in the 55th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 28th
14 Infantry Division. Units of this Brigade date back to the
15 American Revolution and were engaged in all the wars of this
16 nation.

17 (2) The 109th Infantry trace their origins to the
18 Scranton City Guards Battalion, National Guard of
19 Pennsylvania, which was constituted and organized on August
20 14, 1877. It was redesignated on September 23, 1878, as the
21 13th Infantry Regiment. The unit was mustered into Federal
22 service on May 12 and 13, 1898, at Mount Gretna,
23 Pennsylvania, as the 13th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry
24 Regiment for the Spanish American War. The unit did not serve
25 outside the continental United States. It was mustered out of
26 Federal service on March 11, 1899, at Augusta, Georgia.

27 (3) On September 26, 1916, the unit was mustered into
28 Federal service at Mount Gretna for service on the Mexican
29 border and was stationed at Camp Stewart, El Paso, Texas. As
30 border patrol operations began to close, the unit continued
31 in Federal service as the United States entered World War I.
32 The unit was drafted into Federal service on August 5, 1917.
33 The unit was consolidated with the 1st Infantry Regiment,
34 which was organized in 1777 and it was reorganized and
35 redesignated as the 109th Infantry Regiment, an element of

1 the 28th Division. The unit was mustered out of Federal
2 service from May 17 through 20, 1919, at Camp Dix, New
3 Jersey, and returned to the Commonwealth's control.

4 (4) The soldiers of the 109th Infantry Regiment earned
5 the nickname "Men of Iron" for the three-day defense against
6 overwhelming odds during the German Army's Champagne-Marne
7 Offensive when the 109th Infantry Regiment was attacked by
8 the German 36th Division. A later German after-action report
9 described the battle as "the most severe defeat of the war."
10 The unit received campaign participation credit for the
11 following: Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-
12 Argonne, Champagne 1918 and Lorraine 1918. The regiment had
13 suffered more than 100% casualties from the time it began
14 service in Europe until the signing of the Armistice on
15 November 11, 1918. Fighting was so fierce in some battles
16 that in one case, an entire battalion was left in command of
17 a sergeant. The red "Keystone," the symbol of the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, became the patch of the 28th
19 Division. It was the second official unit patch recognized by
20 the War Department, even though the symbol of the red
21 keystone has been worn on the uniforms of Pennsylvania
22 soldiers since the 1870s.

23 (5) Ten months before the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl
24 Harbor, the 28th Division, including the 109th Infantry
25 Regiment, received orders into Federal service. After the
26 United States entered World War II, the division trained
27 extensively in Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Florida, England and
28 Wales. The 109th became a Regimental Combat Team. It landed
29 in France after D-Day and fought through Normandy, helped
30 liberate Paris and battled through the Hurtgen Forest of
31 Germany. Elements of the Regiment led the Division into the
32 Rhineland to become the first troops to invade German soil
33 since Napoleon and became bitterly engaged in the "West Wall"
34 of Germany. The 109th Infantry paid with human life and blood
35 as they received the following battle honors: Normandy,
36 Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central
37 Europe. They also received the following decorations from
38 foreign governments: the French Croix de Guerre with Palm,
39 streamer embroidered "COLMAR" and the Luxembourg Croix de
40 Guerre, streamer embroidered "LUXEMBOURG."

41 (6) The most noteworthy of the 109th Infantry's
42 achievements during World War II came while the Regiment
43 rested in the Ardennes sector, considered a "quiet" area,
44 early in December 1944. At that time, the German General Von
45 Rundstedt launched the vicious, well-planned battle which
46 became known as the Battle of the Bulge. For eleven days the
47 109th Regimental Combat Team had frustrated the offensive
48 efforts of the German 5th Parachute Division and the 352nd VG
49 Division to seize key terrain and establish a firm southern
50 defense line for the main offensive thrust to seize Antwerp.
51 By December 23, 1944, the 915th Volksgrenadier Regiment,

1 352nd Volksgrenadier (VG) Division, the major foe, had been
2 eliminated by the 109th Regimental Combat Team as a combat
3 organization. Elements of the 914th and 916th Volksgrenadier
4 Regiments also suffered sizeable losses. By December 25,
5 1944, except for the 2nd Battalion, the men of the 109th
6 Infantry began to push back north across the Sure River which
7 they had slowly been pushed through the previous eleven days.
8 They had suffered 1,174 casualties in the battle in just the
9 month of December, almost 40% of their effective strength.

10 (7) Those of the 109th Infantry also underwent
11 mobilization for the Korean War with the 28th Infantry
12 Division, Pennsylvania National Guard, as it reinforced NATO
13 in Germany in 1950. Several Pennsylvania units saw active
14 service in Korea. Additionally, from September 2002 until
15 March 2003, the unit was mobilized in support of Operation
16 Joint Forge in Bosnia-Herzegovina. On January 4, 2005, the
17 battalion mobilized again and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade
18 Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division (Mechanized) which
19 deployed in June 2005 to Al Anbar Province, Iraq, in support
20 of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

21 (8) Since that time, the 109th Infantry has provided
22 assistance to local residents of northeastern Pennsylvania
23 during times of flooding and other natural disasters.
24 Additionally, those in the Regiment continue their job of
25 maintaining their equipment and training for needed future
26 service. Among those who serve at the 109th Infantry
27 Headquarters in Scranton are residents of Carbondale,
28 Berwick, East Stroudsburg, Honesdale, Milton, Williamsport
29 and other areas of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Wayne, Pike,
30 Lycoming and other northeastern Pennsylvania counties. All of
31 these who serve do so for all of the people of Pennsylvania
32 and the nation and stand proud with the military readiness
33 entrusted them according to the Regiment's motto, "CIVES ARMA
34 FERANT: Let the Citizens Bear Arms."

35 (b) Designation.--Because of the great history, sacrifice
36 and commitment of those who have served in the 109th Infantry
37 Regiment, the bridge crossing the Lackawanna River along 8th
38 Avenue, also known as U.S. Business Route 6, in downtown
39 Carbondale, Lackawanna County, is hereby designated the 109th
40 Infantry Bridge.

41 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
42 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the bridge to
43 traffic in both directions on the bridge with the infantry's
44 motto "CIVES ARMA FERANT: Let the Citizens Bear Arms" showing on
45 the sign. Additionally, the department shall work with officials
46 of the City of Carbondale and local residents on properly
47 installing the 109th Infantry Regimental Crest with its motto
48 "CIVES ARMA FERANT: Let the Citizens Bear Arms" on the bridge in
49 the future.

50 Amend Bill, page 6, line 9, by striking out "6" and inserting

