

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1156

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE SACCONI

Printer's No. 1851

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 16, by striking out "and"

2 Amend Bill, page 1, line 18, by striking out the period after
3 "Highway" and inserting
4 ; and designating the bridge to be constructed on that portion
5 of Pennsylvania Route 88 over Peters Creek, Finleyville
6 Borough, Washington County, as the John Emerick Memorial
7 Bridge.

8 Amend Bill, page 7, by inserting between lines 9 and 10

9 Section 7. John Emerick Memorial Bridge.

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

12 (1) Sergeant John Emerick, a native of Mount Pleasant,
13 Westmoreland County, enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940.

14 (2) Following the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Sergeant
15 Emerick was deployed to the Bataan Peninsula, Philippines,
16 initially serving in the 19th Air Base Squadron and later
17 transferring to the 31st infantry unit in an attempt to halt
18 the Japanese advance in the region.

19 (3) With limited food, water and supplies, and following
20 the order of his commander, Sergeant Emerick, along with
21 approximately 12,000 Americans and 63,000 Filipinos,
22 surrendered to Japanese forces as prisoners of war and were
23 forced to march 65 miles through the jungle with no food or
24 water. This march would later be known as the Bataan Death
25 March.

26 (4) Sergeant Emerick survived the death march and 42
27 months of capture and was rescued on September 12, 1945, when
28 United States Forces liberated the prisoners of war.

29 (5) Sergeant Emerick was awarded the Bronze Star with
30 "V" for valor for heroism during combat operations on April
31 6, 1942, on Bataan. His medals included three Bronze Stars, a
32 Purple Heart, three Presidential Unit Citations and a
33 Prisoner of War medal.

34 (6) Following his return to the United States, Sergeant
35 Emerick became a commander in the American Defenders of

1 Bataan and Corregidor, where he was able to assist former
2 prisoners of war in any way he could, including work that led
3 to a study resulting in legislation that would become the
4 former Prisoners of War Benefits Act of 1981.

5 (7) Sergeant Emerick was a 50-year member of the
6 American Legion Post in Finleyville and member of the St.
7 Francis Assisi Church until his death on September 22, 2009.

8 (b) Designation.--The bridge to be constructed on
9 Pennsylvania Route 88 over Peters Creek in Finleyville Borough,
10 Washington County, is designated the John Emerick Memorial
11 Bridge.

12 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
13 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the bridge to
14 traffic in both directions on the bridge.

15 Amend Bill, page 7, line 10, by striking out "7" and
16 inserting

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