

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 956 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY WARD, TEPLITZ, GREENLEAF, WHITE, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, HUTCHINSON, YUDICHAK, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY, BREWSTER, AUMENT, DINNIMAN AND MENSCH, JULY 15, 2015

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 22, 2016

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 711 1017 <--
2 over the Loyalhanna MILL Creek in Ligonier Township, <--
3 Westmoreland County, as the Lieutenant Eric Eslary Memorial
4 Bridge-; AND DESIGNATING A PORTION OF STATE ROUTE 981 IN <--
5 MOUNT PLEASANT TOWNSHIP, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, AS THE JAMES
6 PAUL TAKITCH HONORARY HIGHWAY.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Lieutenant Eric Eslary Memorial Bridge.

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

12 (1) Lieutenant Eric Eslary was a native of Ligonier,
13 Westmoreland County, and a 17-year veteran of the Ligonier
14 Township Police Department.

15 (2) On May 5, 2015, Lieutenant Eslary was patrolling
16 Route 30 in Ligonier Township with his K-9 partner, Blek,
17 when his marked SUV was hit head on by a van operated by a
18 driver under the influence and driving the road the wrong

1 way. Lieutenant Eslary sustained ultimately fatal injuries
2 and his K9 partner required veterinarian care. At the scene,
3 Blek refused to leave his partner's side.

4 (3) Lieutenant Eslary was a well-respected and committed
5 law enforcement officer who established his department's K-9
6 unit in 2000 and provided K-9 training assistance to other
7 departments across this Commonwealth. He was an instrumental
8 part of the Westmoreland County Drug Task Force through which
9 he provided drug abuse resistance education to local school
10 children and civic organizations.

11 (4) In addition to his duties with the police
12 department, Lieutenant Eslary was a long-time volunteer with
13 the Wilpen VOLUNTEER Fire Department, where he founded <--
14 successful fundraising efforts. He was also a member of the
15 local Masonic chapter and volunteered with various youth
16 sports associations in the county.

17 (b) Designation.--The bridge located on State Route 711 1017 <--
18 in Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, over ~~the Loyahanna~~ <--
19 MILL Creek is hereby designated the Lieutenant Eric Eslary <--
20 Memorial Bridge.

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

24 SECTION 2. JAMES PAUL TAKITCH HONORARY HIGHWAY. <--

25 (A) DESIGNATION.--THE SECTION OF STATE ROUTE 981 IN MOUNT
26 PLEASANT TOWNSHIP, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, FROM THE INTERSECTION OF
27 STATE ROUTE 981 AND STATE ROUTE 2021 TO THE INTERSECTION OF
28 STATE ROUTE 981 AND STATE ROUTE 130, IS HEREBY DESIGNATED THE
29 JAMES PAUL TAKITCH HONORARY HIGHWAY.

30 (B) SIGNS.--THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL ERECT AND

1 MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE SIGNS DISPLAYING THE NAME OF THE HIGHWAY TO
2 TRAFFIC IN BOTH DIRECTIONS ON THE HIGHWAY.
3 Section ~~2~~ 3. Effective date. <--
4 This act shall take effect in 60 days.