

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 399 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, S. H. SMITH, TURZAI, STEVENSON, SAYLOR, MAJOR, GEIST, LONGIETTI, REED, VEREB, ADOLPH, AUMENT, BAKER, BARRAR, BEAR, BENNINGHOFF, BLOOM, BOBACK, BOYD, BRENNAN, CAUSER, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, COX, CREIGHTON, CURRY, CUTLER, DALEY, DAY, DELOZIER, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, DUNBAR, ELLIS, EMRICK, EVANKOVICH, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FLECK, GABLER, GEORGE, GILLEN, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, GROVE, HACKETT, HAHN, HARHART, HARPER, HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, M.K. KELLER, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KRIEGER, MAHER, MALONEY, MARSHALL, MARSICO, METCALFE, METZGAR, MICCARELLI, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, D. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PEIFER, PERRY, PETRI, PYLE, QUIGLEY, QUINN, RAPP, REESE, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROCK, SACCONI, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SONNEY, STEPHENS, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, J. TAYLOR, TOEPEL, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, FEBRUARY 2, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, FEBRUARY 2, 2011

AN ACT

1 Designating the Shenango River Bridge, which carries State Route
2 322 over the Shenango River in Jamestown Borough, Mercer
3 County, as the Staff Sergeant David M. Veverka Veterans
4 Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. Staff Sergeant David M. Veverka Memorial Bridge.

8 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly finds and declares as
9 follows:

10 (1) Staff Sergeant David M. Veverka, age 25, a native of
11 Jamestown, Pennsylvania, was killed in action on May 6, 2006,

1 in Iraq while serving on active duty with the Maine National
2 Guard's B Company, 3rd Battalion of the 172nd Infantry.
3 Sergeant Veverka was traveling with his convoy south of
4 Baghdad when an improvised explosive device exploded and hit
5 the vehicle he was riding in, and he died a few hours later
6 at a military hospital in Baghdad. Sergeant Veverka was
7 credited with helping to save the life of a fellow soldier in
8 the truck by pulling that soldier down inside the vehicle as
9 the roadside bomb exploded.

10 (2) Sergeant Veverka was posthumously awarded both the
11 Bronze Star and the Purple Heart by the United States Army.
12 He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, where he had
13 once participated in ceremonies as a member of the United
14 States Army's Old Guard.

15 (3) Born September 15, 1980, Sergeant Veverka graduated
16 from Jamestown Area High School in 1998 and enlisted in the
17 United States Army in 1999, serving in the Airborne Division.
18 He was stationed at Fort Myer, Virginia, until 2002 when he
19 was discharged. While serving at Fort Myer, he was selected
20 to serve in the elite Old Guard (3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment),
21 which is the oldest active infantry regiment in the army and
22 responsible for guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,
23 protecting Washington, D.C., and presiding over military and
24 state funerals at Arlington National Cemetery.

25 (4) After his discharge, Veverka enrolled at the
26 University of Maine and joined the Maine National Guard in
27 order to pay for college. He received a posthumous magna cum
28 laude bachelor of science degree in wildlife ecology from the
29 University of Maine.

30 (5) As a member of the Maine National Guard, he was

1 deployed to Fort Dix, New Jersey, in January of 2006 before
2 being deployed to Kuwait in March of 2006. In April of 2006,
3 he was deployed to Iraq.

4 (b) Designation.--The Shenango River Bridge, which carries
5 State Route 322 over the Shenango River in Jamestown Borough,
6 Mercer County, is hereby designated as the Staff Sergeant David
7 M. Veverka Veterans Memorial Bridge.

8 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
9 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the bridge to
10 traffic in both directions.

11 Section 2. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect in 60 days.