

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1153 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, MARCH 9, 2016

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 9, 2016

AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of State Routes 108 and 551 in Lawrence
2 County as the Battery B Memorial Highway.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Battery B Memorial Highway.

6 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly finds and declares as
7 follows:

8 (1) On the morning of June 8, 1861, the Mount Jackson
9 Guards of Mount Jackson, Lawrence County, gathered at the
10 Mount Jackson Methodist Episcopal Church on present-day State
11 Route 108 to bid goodbye to loved ones before going off to
12 fight in the Civil War, which many believed would be a grand
13 adventure.

14 (2) These men were farmers, school teachers, clerks and
15 laborers from North Beaver Township, Little Beaver Township,
16 Mahoning Township, New Castle and other areas of Lawrence
17 County.

18 (3) The gathering point is now the site of the Battery B

1 Monument placed by veterans in 1923, which sits on the west
2 side of Battery B Cemetery, also known as Mt. Jackson M.E.
3 Cemetery, to commemorate this event.

4 (4) The group of more than 80 young men started off on
5 foot for the nine-mile journey to the railroad station in
6 Enon, traveling on present-day State Routes 108 and 551,
7 being hailed by local supporters as they began their epic
8 journey, and sometimes being offered wagon rides from local
9 farmers to ease their trip to Enon.

10 (5) The Mount Jackson Guards, later designated Battery
11 B, First Pennsylvania Light Artillery, along with many other
12 Lawrence County regiments, boarded the train to Camp Wright,
13 Camp Wilkins and other training camps in the Pittsburgh area
14 to prepare themselves for Camp Curtin in Harrisburg and to
15 fight the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.

16 (6) Battery B distinguished itself in major battles,
17 such as Fredericksburg, Antietam, Gettysburg and Petersburg,
18 and because they served until Lee's surrender at Appomattox
19 in April 1865, they hold the record for the highest amount of
20 casualties of any artillery unit in the Civil War.

21 (7) Many members of Battery B were present in the Grand
22 Review of Troops in Washington, DC, and from 1869 to 1930,
23 Battery B held elaborate reunions in Mount Jackson, including
24 locals, Lawrence County residents, State dignitaries,
25 military officers, Battery B members from almost every county
26 in Pennsylvania and most of the 48 states, as well as
27 veterans from other Pennsylvania regiments.

28 (8) As many as 2,000 people gathered in the little
29 village of Mount Jackson to honor this illustrious group of
30 men, to hear speeches by the members that reminisced about

1 their experiences and to join in a picnic prepared by the
2 proud citizens of the town.

3 (9) Recently, an article from the New Castle News was
4 discovered, reporting that on September 26, 1925, a parade
5 was given to celebrate the completion of the concrete road
6 from Derringer's Corners, North Beaver Township, continuing
7 to the village of Enon Valley, Little Beaver Township.

8 (10) The article suggested on that historic occasion
9 that State Routes 108 and 551 from Mount Jackson to Enon
10 Valley be named the "Battery B Highway."

11 (11) The members of the Enon Valley Community Historical
12 Society have proposed that this old suggestion made 90 years
13 ago become a reality.

14 (b) Designation.--The section of State Routes 108 and 551 in
15 Lawrence County from the intersection of State Route 108 and Old
16 Hickory Road at the Battery B Monument to State Route 551 ending
17 at the railroad tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Enon
18 Valley, is hereby designated the Battery B Memorial Highway.

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

22 Section 2. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect in 60 days.