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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 657 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY CORMAN, MAY 17, 2019

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REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, MAY 17, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of Pennsylvania Route 144 beginning at the  
2 intersection of Pennsylvania Route 64 in Pleasant Gap and  
3 ending at the intersection of Pennsylvania Route 45 in Centre  
4 Hall, Centre County, as the Duster-Quad 50-Searchlight  
5 Highway.

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

8 Section 1. Duster-Quad 50-Searchlight Highway.

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

11 (1) Dusters, quad .50s and searchlights were weapons  
12 used by the United States Army, grouped together as separate  
13 small units, and deployed to Vietnam starting in 1966 and  
14 ending in 1972.

15 (2) Duster was the nickname given to a weapon mounted on  
16 a tank chassis with two 40 mm guns mounted on top.

17 (3) Quad 50 was the nickname for a weapon that had  
18 four .50 caliber machine guns mounted on the back of a two  
19 and one-half ton truck.

20 (4) Searchlights provided white light and infrared

1 illumination to assist the United States Army in the defense  
2 of combat bases at night.

3 (5) Several hundred soldiers from this Commonwealth  
4 served in units heavily armed with dusters, quad .50s and  
5 searchlights.

6 (6) The 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery, with Battery G of  
7 the 65th Artillery and Battery G of the 29th Artillery  
8 attached, was the highest decorated unit of its size to fight  
9 in the Vietnam War.

10 (7) As a unit equipped with dusters, quad .50s and  
11 searchlights, the unit was awarded over 450 medals for valor,  
12 including the Medal of Honor, and was awarded over 1000  
13 Purple Hearts.

14 (8) During the Vietnam War, units equipped with dusters,  
15 quad .50s and searchlights suffered the loss of 211 soldiers,  
16 including five soldiers from this Commonwealth.

17 (b) Designation.--The portion of Pennsylvania Route 144  
18 beginning at the intersection of Pennsylvania Route 64 in  
19 Pleasant Gap and ending at the intersection of Pennsylvania  
20 Route 45 in Centre Hall, Centre County, is designated as Duster-  
21 Quad 50-Searchlight Highway.

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

25 Section 2. Effective date.

26 This act shall take effect in 60 days.