
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2841 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, BERNSTINE, COX, GILLEN, HENNESSEY, JAMES,
KINSEY, MILLARD, RYAN, SCHMITT, SMITH AND SONNEY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 44052, carrying
2 State Route 3035 over Yellow Creek in Homer City, Indiana
3 County, as the Sgt. Walter F. Novak Memorial Bridge.

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

6 Section 1. Sgt. Walter F. Novak Memorial Bridge.

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

9 (1) Walter F. Novak was born in Mecco on December 24,
10 1920.

11 (2) Sgt. Novak worked for R & P Coal Company in 1939 to
12 help with family finances instead of finishing high school.

13 (3) Sgt. Novak enlisted in the military on August 4,
14 1942, and joined the 101st Airborne 506 PIR "A" Company.

15 (4) Sgt. Novak completed elite paratrooper training at
16 Camp Toccoa in Georgia.

17 (5) Sgt. Novak's first combat jump was over Normandy on
18 June 5, 1944, and his second combat jump was during Operation

1 Market Garden on September 17, 1944, where he was hit with
2 flack and evacuated to have surgery, but later rejoined his
3 company in time to participate in the Battle of the Bulge on
4 December 17, 1944.

5 (6) Sgt. Novak separated from the military on September
6 22, 1945, with an honorable discharge and ended his service
7 as a sergeant and squad leader.

8 (7) For his service, Sgt. Novak was awarded the Bronze
9 Star with two oak clusters, Purple Heart Medal, European-
10 African-Middle Eastern Service Medal with four bronze service
11 stars, two bronze arrowheads, two distinguished unit
12 citations, combat infantry badge, M-1 rifleman badge and
13 Thompson Submachine Gun Expert badge.

14 (8) After he finished his military service, Sgt. Novak
15 went back to work at the R & P Coal Company as a shuttle car
16 operator.

17 (9) Sgt. Novak married June Poole and they raised four
18 boys.

19 (10) Sgt. Novak passed the exam to become a First Grade
20 Assistant Mine Foreman and was also a plumber for a local
21 contractor.

22 (11) Sgt. Novak ran for Homer City town council and was
23 elected in 1960.

24 (12) Sgt. Novak was a member of the American Legion Post
25 493 in Homer City for 63 years and a life member of the VFW
26 Post 1989 in Indiana.

27 (13) Sgt. Novak passed away on January 3, 2008, at his
28 home after he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer.

29 (b) Designation.--The bridge, identified as Bridge Key
30 44052, carrying State Route 3035 over Yellow Creek in Homer

1 City, Indiana County, is designated the Sgt. Walter F. Novak
2 Memorial Bridge.

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

6 Section 2. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect in 60 days.