
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2862 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY SANKEY, COX, SONNEY, SMITH, GILLEN, JAMES,
HENNESSEY, STAATS, HILL-EVANS, MILLARD, KINSEY, BERNSTINE,
CAUSER, RYAN, BURGOS, JOZWIAK AND CONKLIN, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8706, on that
2 portion of State Route 4021 over a tributary of the West
3 Branch of the Susquehanna River, Susquehanna Township,
4 Cambria County, as the Petty Officer Iral William Stoltz
5 Memorial Bridge.

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

8 Section 1. Petty Officer Iral William Stoltz Memorial Bridge.

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

11 (1) Iral William Stoltz was born in West Carroll
12 Township on December 21, 1904, to John Robert and Mary Ann
13 (Gray) Stoltz and was the fifth of ten children.

14 (2) Petty Officer Stoltz enlisted in the United States
15 Navy prior to Pearl Harbor and became a petty officer first
16 class, fireman first class and served on the USS Kearny.

17 (3) The USS Kearny was commissioned in the late 1940s
18 and left for St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands
19 in February 1941. The USS Kearny patrolled off San Juan,

1 Puerto Rico, then returned to Norfolk, Virginia.

2 (4) The USS Kearny was on patrol duty off Bermuda in
3 September 1941 and began escorting North Atlantic convoys.

4 (5) Shortly after midnight on October 17, 1941, the USS
5 Kearny was attacked by a wolfpack of German U-Boats while
6 escorting a convoy. A U-568 fired a spread of three
7 torpedoes, two of which missed the USS Kearny, but one struck
8 the destroyer on the starboard side just below the waterline.

9 (6) Petty Officer Stoltz was one of eleven sailors
10 killed in action that night, none of their bodies were
11 recovered.

12 (7) Petty Officer Stoltz was Cambria County's first
13 casualty of World War II and was posthumously awarded the
14 Purple Heart.

15 (8) Although his body was not recovered, Petty Officer
16 Stoltz is remembered with a gravestone in the historic St.
17 Joseph's Mission Church Cemetery in Carrolltown.

18 (b) Designation.--The bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8706,
19 located on State Route 4021 over a tributary of the West Branch
20 of the Susquehanna River, Susquehanna Township, Cambria County,
21 is designated the Petty Officer Iral William Stoltz Memorial
22 Bridge.

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

26 Section 2. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect in 60 days.