

**CLARION RIVER BRIDGE - REDESIGNATION AS REAR ADMIRAL PAUL H.
SPEER BRIDGE**

Act of Jul. 2, 2007, P.L. 74, No. 24

Cl. 87

AN ACT

Redesignating the Clarion River Bridge on Main Street in Ridgway, Elk County, as Rear Admiral Paul H. Speer Bridge.

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Paul H. Speer was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1928, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Speer of Ridgway, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Admiral Speer began his naval career in 1946, when he enlisted in the Naval Aviation College Program; and

WHEREAS, Following two years at Wisconsin State College, Admiral Speer entered flight training in 1948 and was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1950; and

WHEREAS, Admiral Speer's first assignment was with Air Development Squadron Three at the Naval Air Station in Atlantic City, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Admiral Speer was subsequently ordered to Fighter Squadron 172 and participated in the introduction of the F-2H Banshee into the Korean War, flying from USS Essex; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Speer attended the General Line School in Monterey, California, in 1953 and later became a flight instructor in the Naval Air Training Command until 1955; and

WHEREAS, From July 1955 to February 1961, he served as a division officer on USS Bon Homme Richard; Operations Officer, Fighter Squadron 111; Operations Officer, Fleet Air Support Squadron 8; and as a combat flight instructor with Fighter Squadron 124; and

WHEREAS, Admiral Speer then attended the University of California at Berkeley from January 1961 to June 1962, earning a degree in business administration; and

WHEREAS, This assignment was followed by a tour as an instructor with the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, He was named Executive Officer of Fighter Squadron 211 in 1965 and Commanding Officer in 1966; and

WHEREAS, During his tour, Fighter Squadron 211 won the Naval Air Force, Pacific Combat "E" for excellence; and

WHEREAS, He served on the staff of the Commander Carrier Division Three in 1968 and 1969 prior to reporting to Miramar Naval Air Station in California, training as a prospective Air Wing Commander; and

WHEREAS, He took command of Attack Carrier Air Wing Eleven in October 1969 and of Attack Carrier Air Wing Fourteen in January 1970, making a deployment on USS Constellation; and

WHEREAS, Following his selection to Captain in July 1970, he reported to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as the Head of the Program Budget Branch in the Aviation Plans and Requirements Division; and

WHEREAS, Commencing in April 1972, he served as Commanding Officer of the command ship USS Blue Ridge, and one year later he assumed command of USS Constellation, then on its eighth deployment to the Western Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Following his selection to flag rank, Admiral Speer assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Japan, from October 1974 to April 1976; and

WHEREAS, He next served as Commander, Carrier Group One, and in May 1978 he again returned to Washington, DC, and assumed

duties as Director of the Aviation Plans and Requirements Division; and

WHEREAS, In June 1980 he became the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, where he served before reporting to Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, Admiral Speer became Chief of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic on August 13, 1981; and

WHEREAS, His personal awards include the Navy Cross, two Legion of Merit awards, three Distinguished Flying Cross awards, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V," the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and the Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Government of Japan.

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

Section 1. Designation of bridge.

The bridge known as the Clarion River Bridge on Main Street in Ridgway, Elk County, is redesignated the Rear Admiral Paul H. Speer Bridge.

Section 2. Markers to be erected.

The Department of Transportation shall erect suitable markers on the Rear Admiral Paul H. Speer Bridge in Ridgway, Elk County.

Section 3. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.