

SERGEANT ROBERT W. HARTSOCK MEMORIAL BRIDGE - DESIGNATION

Act of May. 17, 2012, P.L. 533, No. 44

Cl. 87

An Act

Designating the bridge that carries State Route 26 over the Raystown branch of the Juniata River in the Borough of Everett, Bedford County, as the Sergeant Robert W. Hartsock Memorial Bridge.

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

Section 1. Sergeant Robert W. Hartsock Memorial Bridge.

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

(1) United States Army Staff Sergeant Robert W. Hartsock posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, on August 6, 1970, in recognition of the extraordinary heroic valor he displayed on February 23, 1969, when he was killed in action during the Vietnam War.

(2) Sergeant Hartsock was serving as section leader with the 44th Infantry Platoon, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in Hau Nghia Province, north of Saigon, in the Republic of Vietnam, when his Dau Tieng Base Camp came under a heavy enemy rocket and mortar attack. Sergeant Hartsock and his platoon commander spotted an enemy squad that had infiltrated the camp. Undetected by the enemy, Sergeant Hartsock and his platoon commander awaited the approach of the enemy soldiers. Though heavily outnumbered, Sergeant Hartsock and the platoon commander opened fire on the enemy squad.

(3) As a wounded enemy soldier fell, he detonated a satchel charge. Sergeant Hartsock, with complete disregard for his own life, threw himself on the charge and was mortally wounded. Despite his wounds, Sergeant Hartsock crawled into a nearby ditch and continued to provide heavy fire, pinning down the enemy. Sergeant Hartsock continued to fire his weapon until he died from his wounds.

(4) Sergeant Hartsock's heroism saved the life of his platoon commander and indirectly saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers in the camp by disrupting the enemy squad's mission.

(5) Born January 24, 1945, Sergeant Hartsock was a 1962 graduate of Everett Southern Joint High School. He enlisted in the United States Army in August 1967 and was killed with only two months remaining on his tour of duty in Vietnam.

(6) Sergeant Hartsock is buried in Rocky Gap Veterans' Cemetery. The chapel at the cemetery is dedicated to him.

(b) Designation.--The bridge that carries State Route 26 over the Raystown branch of the Juniata River in the Borough of Everett, Bedford County, is designated as the Sergeant Robert W. Hartsock Memorial Bridge.

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

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.