

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1431 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY MASSER, GOODMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, HENNESSEY, TOOHIL, YOUNGBLOOD, SAMUELSON, DERMODY, PETRARCA, CALTAGIRONE, THOMAS, HELM, MALONEY, READSHAW, DiGIROLAMO, MILLARD, SAINATO, O'BRIEN, CAUSER, WHEELAND, WARD, MARSICO, FREEMAN, A. HARRIS, D. COSTA, SAYLOR, PETRI AND DeLUCA, MAY 23, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 24, 2017

AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of State Routes 54, 901 and 2023 in  
2 Northumberland County and Schuylkill County as the Honorable  
3 Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Memorial Highway.

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

6 Section 1. Honorable Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Memorial Highway.

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

9 (1) The Honorable Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., represented  
10 the 107th Legislative District, covering portions of  
11 Columbia, Montour, Northumberland and Schuylkill Counties  
12 from 1981 to 2010.

13 (2) During his 30 years in the House of Representatives,  
14 Representative Belfanti served on numerous committees and was  
15 chairperson of the Labor Relations Committee from 1993 to  
16 2010.

1 (3) Representative Belfanti was active on numerous State  
2 boards and commissions and championed workers, small  
3 businesses, veterans and improved accessibility for the  
4 disabled.

5 (4) Representative Belfanti attended Mount Carmel area  
6 schools and was a lifelong scout, earning the rank of Eagle  
7 Scout in 1962 and returning to scouting as an adult as a  
8 charter member of Cub Scout Pack 3178.

9 (5) Representative Belfanti and his wife, Cecilia, were  
10 instrumental in bringing scouting back to the Mount Carmel  
11 area following a long dormancy, and Representative Belfanti  
12 received numerous awards during his 25 years of service.

13 (6) Before becoming a State Representative,  
14 Representative Belfanti enlisted in the United States Marine  
15 Corps IN 1967 and served a 13-month tour of duty in the <--  
16 Vietnam War with helicopter units that supplied troops,  
17 ammunition and medical supplies to ~~Marines and rescued the~~ <--  
18 ~~wounded.~~ MARINES. HIS CH-46 HELICOPTERS, KNOWN AS SEA <--  
19 KNIGHTS, WERE ALSO THE MAJOR MEANS FOR RESCUING AND PROVIDING  
20 MEDIVACS FOR THE WOUNDED.

21 (7) Representative Belfanti rose to the rank of sergeant  
22 ~~and was highly decorated when he was honorably discharged in~~ <--  
23 ~~1971.~~ BEFORE BEING HONORABLY DISCHARGED IN 1971. AMONG HIS <--  
24 DECORATIONS WERE TWO BRONZE STARS WITH VALOR, THE COMBAT  
25 ACTION RIBBON, THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, THE VIETNAM  
26 CAMPAIGN MEDAL, THE VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY AND THE  
27 VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL.

28 (8) Representative Belfanti was active in numerous  
29 veteran organizations and cofounded the Black Diamond  
30 Detachment of the Marine Corps League-, AS WELL AS A LIFE <--

1 MEMBER OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW), AMVETS AND  
2 VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR. REPRESENTATIVE BELFANTI WAS  
3 NAMED VETERAN OF THE YEAR BY THE NATIONAL WAR VETERANS  
4 COUNCIL AND ALSO RECEIVED THE PATRIOT OF THE YEAR AWARD.

5 (9) Representative Belfanti's legacy includes saving the  
6 former Shamokin State General Hospital from divestiture, the  
7 opening of State Correctional Institution Coal Township,  
8 resolving issues related to the Centralia mine fire, the  
9 Shamokin Creek project, championing numerous abandoned mine  
10 reclamation projects and helping with many rail improvement  
11 and economic development projects in the district.

12 (10) Representative Belfanti was also instrumental in  
13 securing funding for the State Route 901 widening project  
14 from Locust Summit to Interstate 81, as well as the Strong  
15 Connector improvement project.

16 (b) Designation.--The portion of State Routes 54 and 901 in  
17 Northumberland County and Schuylkill County from the  
18 intersection of State Route 54, State Route 901 and State Route  
19 2023, also known as the Mount Carmel Merriam Highway, in Mount  
20 Carmel Township, Northumberland County, to the intersection of  
21 State Route 901, also known as Fairgrounds Road, and High Road  
22 in Butler Township, Schuylkill County, is hereby designated as  
23 the Honorable Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Memorial Highway.

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

27 Section 2. Effective date.

28 This act shall take effect in 60 days.