

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 779**      Session of  
2007

---

INTRODUCED BY ARMSTRONG, APRIL 23, 2007

---

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, APRIL 23, 2007

---

AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of State Route 462 in Lancaster County as  
2 the Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Robert D. Lapp, Jr.,  
3 Memorial Highway.

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

6 Section 1. Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Robert D. Lapp,  
7 Jr., Memorial Highway.

8 (a) Declaration of policy.--The General Assembly finds and  
9 declares as follows:

10 (1) Robert D. Lapp, Jr., was born September 27, 1942, in  
11 Washington, D.C., graduated from Reading High School in 1960  
12 and enlisted in the Navy. He served for three years,  
13 including 27 months in Japan, until he was honorably  
14 discharged on September 19, 1963.

15 (2) Trooper Lapp enlisted in the Pennsylvania State  
16 Police Academy in September 1964.

17 (3) Following graduation from the academy, Trooper Lapp  
18 was assigned to Troop A, in western Pennsylvania where he

1 served in the patrol unit at Indiana, Somerset, Pittsburgh  
2 and Greensburg.

3 (4) In March of 1968 he was transferred to Troop J in  
4 Lancaster County where he served briefly in the patrol unit  
5 and then as a Criminal Investigator.

6 (5) Trooper Lapp served this Commonwealth with bravery  
7 and distinction until his death on October 16, 1972, after  
8 being shot while attempting to apprehend an escaped prisoner  
9 from New Jersey who was serving a life sentence for the  
10 murder of three individuals ten years earlier.

11 (6) On Friday, October 13, 1972, Trooper Lapp had worked  
12 a double shift investigating an armed bank robbery in  
13 Lancaster, which the prisoner was suspected of committing.  
14 Trooper Lapp was at home and off duty when information was  
15 developed as to where the prisoner might be hiding out.  
16 Members of the Troop J Lancaster Criminal Investigation Unit  
17 stopped at Trooper Lapp's home on their way to the suspect's  
18 location to request assistance from Trooper Lapp. Trooper  
19 Lapp did not hesitate to answer the call of duty. He grabbed  
20 his gun and vest and proceeded to the scene. Trooper Lapp  
21 voluntarily led the way into the apartment as he was the only  
22 officer with a protective vest.

23 (7) At 30 years of age, Trooper Lapp, an eight-year  
24 veteran of the Pennsylvania State Police, was the 68th member  
25 of the Pennsylvania State Police to be killed in the line of  
26 duty.

27 (8) Trooper Lapp left behind a wife and three children,  
28 six, four and three years of age.

29 (9) A eulogy by Father John Travers of St. Anthony of  
30 Padua Catholic Church described Trooper Lapp as "more than an

1 exceptional law officer. He was a loyal and trusted friend.  
2 [His fellow officers] knew him as an unselfish man, always  
3 dependable to the point of sacrificing his own desires and  
4 interests when they needed his help, a humble man who, though  
5 gifted physically with strength and natural athletic ability,  
6 never bragged of his talents or tried to dominate others; a  
7 man with inner toughness and competitive desire to excel, but  
8 never at the expense of honesty or fair play; a good natured,  
9 kind and gentle man who always was pleasant to work and relax  
10 with."

11 (b) Designation.--The portion of State Route 462 in  
12 Lancaster Township from the Lancaster City line on the west to  
13 the Conestoga River on the east, Lancaster County, is designated  
14 the Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Robert D. Lapp, Jr.,  
15 Memorial Highway.

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

19 Section 2. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect in 60 days.