

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1956 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY ROCK, KAUFFMAN, AUMENT, BAKER, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, COX, CUTLER, DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, ELLIS, EMRICK, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FARRY, FLECK, GABLER, GEORGE, GILLEN, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HARHART, HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, KORTZ, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MALONEY, MANN, MARSHALL, MARSICO, METCALFE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, MULLERY, MURT, MUSTIO, PAYNE, PICKETT, QUINN, RAPP, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, REED, REICHLEY, ROAE, SACCONI, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, THOMAS, TOEPEL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD, NOVEMBER 1, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, NOVEMBER 1, 2011

AN ACT

1 Designating State Route 16 from the entrance of Greencastle
 2 Borough, Franklin County, to the square or other end of the
 3 borough on State Route 16 as the Master Sergeant Benjamin F.
 4 Bitner Memorial Highway.

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

7 Section 1. Master Sergeant Benjamin F. Bitner Memorial Highway.

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

10 (1) Master Sergeant Benjamin F. Bitner from Greencastle,
 11 Pennsylvania, was killed on Saturday, April 23, 2011, while
 12 serving with Operation Enduring Freedom in the Kandahar
 13 Province of Afghanistan.

1 (2) Master Sergeant Bitner, 37 years of age, was a
2 special forces soldier and had served in the United States
3 Army for 18 years.

4 (3) Master Sergeant Bitner died of wounds suffered when
5 insurgents attacked his unit, the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special
6 Forces Group, based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with an
7 improvised explosive, according to the United States
8 Department of Defense.

9 (4) Master Sergeant Bitner was born on July 4, 1973, in
10 Hagerstown, the son of Roger and Beverly Bitner of
11 Greencastle.

12 (5) Master Sergeant Bitner and his wife, April, lived in
13 North Carolina with their two sons, Gunnar and Rogue. Bitner
14 graduated from Greencastle-Antrim High School in 1991 and was
15 a member of the Rescue Hose Company.

16 (6) Master Sergeant Bitner enlisted in 1991 and attended
17 the special forces assessment and selection in 1999. He
18 graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course as an
19 engineer sergeant.

20 (7) Master Sergeant Bitner had been deployed to
21 Afghanistan four times. He also served in Africa, Kosovo,
22 Kuwait and Iraq.

23 (8) Master Sergeant Bitner received numerous awards for
24 his service, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star,
25 Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army
26 Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve
27 Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal,
28 Kosovo Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal,
29 Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War
30 on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror

1 Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional
2 Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Special
3 Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Parachutists Badge,
4 Military Free-Fall Badge, Bandenkampfabzeichen Badge and
5 Ram's Head Device.

6 (b) Designation.--State Route 16 from the entrance of
7 Greencastle Borough, Franklin County, to the square or other end
8 of the borough on State Route 16 is designated as the Master
9 Sergeant Benjamin F. Bitner Memorial Highway.

10 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
11 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the highway
12 designated under subsection (b) to traffic in both directions.

13 Section 2. Effective date.

14 This act shall take effect in 60 days.