

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2045 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY HESS, METZGAR, AUMENT, BAKER, BRENNAN, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, COHEN, D. COSTA, COX, EVERETT, FARRY, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLEN, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, HALUSKA, HARHART, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KOTIK, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MICCARELLI, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MURT, O'NEILL, PAYNE, RAPP, READSHAW, REED, ROCK, ROSS, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOEPEL AND YOUNGBLOOD, DECEMBER 5, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, DECEMBER 5, 2011

AN ACT

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

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

7 Section 1. Sergeant Robert W. Hartsock Memorial Bridge.

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

10 (1) United States Army Staff Sergeant Robert W. Hartsock
 11 posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's
 12 highest military honor, on August 6, 1970, in recognition of
 13 the extraordinary heroic valor he displayed on February 23,
 14 1969, when he was killed in action during the Vietnam War.

15 (2) Sergeant Hartsock was serving as section leader with

1 the 44th Infantry Platoon, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry
2 Division in Hau Nghia Province, north of Saigon in the
3 Republic of Vietnam when his Dau Tieng Base Camp came under a
4 heavy enemy rocket and mortar attack. Sergeant Hartsock and
5 his platoon commander spotted an enemy squad that had
6 infiltrated the camp. Undetected by the enemy, Sergeant
7 Hartsock and his platoon commander awaited the approach of
8 the enemy soldiers. Though heavily outnumbered, Sergeant
9 Hartsock and the platoon commander opened fire on the enemy
10 squad.

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

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

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

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

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

1 Hartsock Memorial Bridge.

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

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