
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1971 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY YOUNGBLOOD, CRUZ, W. KELLER, COHEN, BROWNLEE,
KORTZ, KINSEY, BIZZARRO, V. BROWN, BISHOP, J. HARRIS,
NEILSON, MIRABITO, MIRANDA, PARKER, READSHAW, LUCAS,
CALTAGIRONE, KIM, SABATINA, MILLARD, DAVIDSON, DONATUCCI,
CLAY, THOMAS, MURT, KIRKLAND, HARHART, MCNEILL, GOODMAN,
GROVE AND GINGRICH, JANUARY 22, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 22, 2014

AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of State Route 30 in Philadelphia County
2 as the Betty Ann Townes Memorial Highway.

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

5 Section 1. Betty Ann Townes Memorial Highway.

6 (a) Findings and declarations.--The General Assembly finds
7 and declares:

8 (1) Betty Ann Townes was born in Mount Holly, Virginia,
9 the fourth child and oldest daughter of Deacon Elton Roane
10 and Deaconess Lucille Roane.

11 (2) Mrs. Townes was a longtime community leader and
12 political activist.

13 (3) Mrs. Townes was an active member of Christian
14 Stronghold Baptist Church, where she served on numerous
15 ministries and was a Bible school and Sunday school teacher.

16 (4) Mrs. Townes was the Block Captain of Sylvania

1 Street, Past Ward Leader of the 12th Ward, a Democratic State
2 Committee Person and political liaison for former mayors John
3 F. Street and Wilson Goode.

4 (5) Mrs. Townes assisted State and local elected
5 officials of all branches of government and recently worked
6 alongside Representative Rosita C. Youngblood to save Happy
7 Hollows Playground.

8 (6) Mrs. Townes lived out her life dream and owned her
9 very own soul food restaurant named Knappy Knicky's, which
10 she opened in 1993 at Wayne Avenue and Seymour Street in
11 Germantown. The restaurant was known for chitlin hoagies,
12 great food and family service.

13 (7) The community considered her restaurant to be a safe
14 haven. If a member of the community were in need of food,
15 clothing, jobs or shelter, Mrs. Townes was always there to
16 help.

17 (8) Mrs. Townes started a culinary arts training program
18 beside her restaurant that educated youth and the unemployed
19 community.

20 (9) After tirelessly serving her community as a leader
21 and political activist, Mrs. Townes passed away on Tuesday,
22 December 3, 2013, at the age of 69.

23 (b) Designation.--The section of State Route 30, from
24 Clarissa Street to Cheltenham Avenue, in Philadelphia County, is
25 hereby designated the Betty Ann Townes Memorial Highway.

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

29 Section 2. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect immediately.