
 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 178 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SNYDER, READSHAW, FREEMAN, KINSEY, KNOWLES,
DiGIROLAMO, THOMAS, HENNESSEY, CONKLIN, CAUSER, COHEN,
TOEPEL, YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, BROWNLEE, BARRAR, HAHN,
McNEILL, KAUFFMAN, WATSON, MARSICO, COX, TALLMAN, W. KELLER,
PAYNE, LONGIETTI, DONATUCCI, A. HARRIS, GILLEN, MATZIE,
MILLARD, DUSH, GRELL, O'NEILL, D. COSTA, MURT, FARINA,
SCHWEYER, JOZWIAK, GABLER, M. K. KELLER, MAJOR, GIBBONS,
McCARTER, SONNEY, KORTZ, ENGLISH, DAVIS AND MARSHALL,
JANUARY 23, 2015

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

AN ACT

1 Designating the interchange of State Route 43 at the Mon-Fayette
2 Expressway Interchange with State Route 88, known as Exit 28,
3 in Washington County as the Marine Cpl. Thomas R. Matty
4 Memorial Interchange; designating a bridge on that portion of
5 State Route 1013, known as Knupp Road, over the Hypocrite
6 Creek, Fairfield Township, Westmoreland County, as the PFC
7 LeRoy D. "Whitey" Schaller Bridge; ~~and~~ designating a portion <--
8 of State Route 711 in New Florence Borough through St. Clair
9 Township, Westmoreland County, as the Veterans Highway; AND <--
10 DESIGNATING A BRIDGE ON THAT PORTION OF STATE ROUTE 88 OVER
11 MUDDY CREEK, CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP, GREENE COUNTY, AS THE ARMY
12 CORPORAL RICHARD W. KOWALEWSKI, JR., MEMORIAL BRIDGE.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. Marine Cpl. Thomas R. Matty Memorial Interchange.

16 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly finds and declares as
17 follows:

18 (1) Thomas Richard Matty was born on October 4, 1945, in
19 Denbo, Pennsylvania.

1 (2) He was a 1963 graduate of Bethlehem Center High
2 School where he excelled in many sports, especially baseball.
3 He received a business administration degree from the
4 Educational Institute of Pittsburgh in 1965.

5 (3) Thomas R. Matty enlisted in the United States Marine
6 Corps in 1966. He attended boot camp training at Parris
7 Island and additional training at Camp Lejeune and at El
8 Toro, California. He arrived in Vietnam on November 9, 1967.

9 (4) Marine Cpl. Thomas R. Matty made the ultimate
10 sacrifice for his country when he was killed in the vicinity
11 of Quang Nam Province in South Vietnam on December 21,
12 1967, at 22 years of age.

13 (5) Bethlehem Center High School continues to honor
14 Marine Cpl. Thomas R. Matty by giving an award to a senior
15 class member in his honor.

16 (b) Designation.--The interchange of State Route 43 in
17 Washington County at the Mon-Fayette Expressway Interchange with
18 State Route 88, known as Exit 28, is hereby designated the
19 Marine Cpl. Thomas R. Matty Memorial Interchange.

20 (c) Signs.--The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect
21 and maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the
22 interchange.

23 Section 2. PFC LeRoy D. "Whitey" Schaller Memorial Bridge.

24 (a) Designation.--The bridge located on State Route 1013,
25 known as Knupp Road, over the Hypocrite Creek, in Fairfield
26 Township, Westmoreland County, is hereby designated the PFC
27 LeRoy D. "Whitey" Schaller Bridge.

28 (b) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
29 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the bridge to
30 traffic in both directions on the bridge.

1 Section 3. Veterans Highway.

2 (a) Designation.--The portion of State Route 711 commencing
3 at the intersection of Ligonier Street and 13th Street in New
4 Florence Borough, Westmoreland County, and continuing through
5 St. Clair Township at the Seward Borough line, is hereby
6 designated the Veterans Highway.

7 (b) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
8 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the highway to
9 traffic in both directions on the highway.

10 SECTION 4. ARMY CORPORAL RICHARD W. KOWALEWSKI, JR., MEMORIAL <--
11 BRIDGE.

12 (A) FINDINGS.--THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES AS
13 FOLLOWS:

14 (1) RICHARD W. KOWALEWSKI, JR., WAS BORN ON MARCH 31,
15 1973, IN WAYNESBURG.

16 (2) RICHARD W. KOWALEWSKI, JR., ENLISTED IN THE UNITED
17 STATES ARMY AND COMPLETED BASIC TRAINING IN JUNE 1992.

18 (3) CORPORAL KOWALEWSKI WAS LATER ASSIGNED TO THE 3RD
19 BATTALION, 75TH RANGER REGIMENT.

20 (4) AS PART OF A UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING OPERATION,
21 CORPORAL KOWALEWSKI WAS DEPLOYED TO SOMALIA IN AUGUST 1993.

22 (5) ON OCTOBER 3, 1993, CORPORAL KOWALEWSKI, ALONG WITH
23 17 OTHER MEN, WERE KILLED IN THE BATTLE OF MOGADISHU. DURING
24 THE BATTLE, A GROUP OF SOMALIS, ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS
25 AND ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADES, AMBUSHED CORPORAL KOWALEWSKI'S
26 CONVOY WHILE IN ROUTE TO RESCUE DOWNED PILOTS OF A BLACK HAWK
27 HELICOPTER.

28 (6) THE ENCOUNTER HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ONE OF OUR
29 COUNTRY'S MOST VIOLENT FIREFIGHTS SINCE VIETNAM. THE BATTLE
30 WAS LATER DEPICTED IN THE FAMOUS NOVEL AND MOVIE "BLACK HAWK

1 DOWN."

2 (7) FOR HIS HEROIC ACTIONS DURING BATTLE, CORPORAL
3 KOWALEWSKI WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH VALOR AND
4 THE PURPLE HEART.

5 (B) DESIGNATION.--THE BRIDGE LOCATED ON STATE ROUTE 88 IN
6 CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP, GREENE COUNTY, SECTION Q10, SEGMENT
7 0300/0000, STRUCTURE NUMBER S-31843, OVER MUDDY CREEK IS HEREBY
8 DESIGNATED THE ARMY CORPORAL RICHARD W. KOWALEWSKI, JR.,
9 MEMORIAL BRIDGE.

10 (C) SIGNS.--THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL ERECT AND
11 MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE SIGNS WHICH SHALL DISPLAY THE NAME OF THE
12 BRIDGE DESIGNATED IN SUBSECTION (B).

13 Section 4 5. Effective date.

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14 This act shall take effect in 60 days.