

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1577 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, BENNINGHOFF, CAUSER, COHEN, D. COSTA, COX, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, ELLIS, FARINA, GOODMAN, GROVE, HAHN, A. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, IRVIN, KIM, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON, O'NEILL, OBERLANDER, PICKETT, SAINATO, SANKEY, SAYLOR, SCHWEYER, THOMAS, VEREB, WARD AND WHEELAND, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 580, over
2 the west branch of the Susquehanna River, Cherry Tree
3 Borough, Indiana County, as the Airman Second Class Gerald
4 Emmett Johnson Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. Airman Second Class Gerald Emmett Johnson Memorial
8 Bridge.

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

11 (1) Gerald Emmett Johnson, commonly known as "Jerry,"
12 was born March 17, 1933, in Youngstown, Ohio, and lived in
13 Arcadia, Pennsylvania.

14 (2) Gerald Emmett Johnson enlisted with the U.S. Air
15 Force as an Airman Second Class and served as crew member of
16 a B-29A Superfortress Bomber with the 371st Bomber Squadron,
17 307th Bomber Wing during the Korean War.

1 (3) On October 23, 1951, Airman Second Class Johnson's
2 aircraft was shot down by enemy MiGs over Namsi Airfield, a
3 North Korean airfield during the Namsi Airfield raid.

4 (4) Airman Second Class Johnson was taken prisoner of
5 war on October 23, 1951, his remains were not recovered and
6 he was declared dead on January 28, 1954.

7 (5) Airman Second Class Johnson's name is inscribed on
8 the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.

9 (6) Among Airman Second Class Johnson's many honors are
10 the following:

11 (i) Prisoner of War Medal.

12 (ii) Purple Heart.

13 (iii) Air Medal.

14 (iv) National Defense Service Medal.

15 (v) Korean Service Medal.

16 (vi) Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

17 (vii) United Nations Service Medal.

18 (viii) Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

19 (7) Airman Second Class Johnson's family remains in the
20 Arcadia, Hillsdale and Cherry Tree area in Indiana County as
21 well as Clearfield, Cambria, Westmoreland and Jefferson
22 Counties of Pennsylvania.

23 (b) Designation.--The bridge on that portion of State Route
24 580, over the west branch of the Susquehanna River, Cherry Tree
25 Borough, Indiana County, is hereby designated as the Airman
26 Second Class Gerald Emmett Johnson Memorial Bridge.

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

30 Section 2. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect in 60 days.