

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 929 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY YAW, JUNE 26, 2015

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 26, 2015

AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of State Route 2014 in Lycoming County as
 2 the Petty Officer Thomas Johnson Memorial Highway.

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

5 Section 1. Petty Officer Thomas Johnson Memorial Highway.

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

8 (1) On the morning of April 10, 1963, the USS Thresher
 9 began a deep diving test about 200 miles to the east of Cape
 10 Cod, Massachusetts, with the submarine rescue ship USS
 11 Skylark standing by overhead.

12 (2) The USS Thresher was less than two years old and was
 13 the lead boat in a new class of nuclear powered, fast attack
 14 submarines designed to be a weapon of deterrence at the
 15 height of the Cold War and was considered the most advanced
 16 naval vessel of its time.

17 (3) At 9:03 a.m., the USS Skylark received a garbled
 18 transmission over the underwater telephone reporting that the

1 USS Thresher was experiencing minor difficulties.

2 (4) The USS Thresher and the 129 men it carried,
3 including 17 civilians, never returned to the surface.

4 (5) The loss of the USS Thresher is one of the worst
5 submarine disasters the world has ever known.

6 (6) After the tragedy, the Navy created SUBSAFE, a
7 safety program that has ensured that no submarine passing
8 through this process ever suffers a similar fate.

9 (7) Petty Officer Thomas Johnson was aboard the USS
10 Thresher that day and sacrificed his life in service to his
11 country.

12 (b) Designation.--The section of State Route 2014 in
13 Lycoming County from Foresman Street in the city of Williamsport
14 to State Route 220 in Woodward Township, is hereby designated
15 the Petty Officer Thomas Johnson Memorial Highway.

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

19 Section 2. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect in 60 days.