
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 956 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY WARD, TEPLITZ, GREENLEAF, WHITE, TARTAGLIONE,
COSTA, HUTCHINSON, YUDICHAK, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY, BREWSTER,
AUMENT, DINNIMAN AND MENSCH, JULY 15, 2015

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JULY 15, 2015

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 711 over the
2 Loyalhanna Creek in Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County,
3 as the Lieutenant Eric Eslary Memorial Bridge.

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

6 Section 1. Lieutenant Eric Eslary Memorial Bridge.

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

9 (1) Lieutenant Eric Eslary was a native of Ligonier,
10 Westmoreland County, and a 17-year veteran of the Ligonier
11 Township Police Department.

12 (2) On May 5, 2015, Lieutenant Eslary was patrolling
13 Route 30 in Ligonier Township with his K-9 partner, Blek,
14 when his marked SUV was hit head on by a van operated by a
15 driver under the influence and driving the road the wrong
16 way. Lieutenant Eslary sustained ultimately fatal injuries
17 and his K9 partner required veterinarian care. At the scene,
18 Blek refused to leave his partner's side.

1 (3) Lieutenant Eslary was a well-respected and committed
2 law enforcement officer who established his department's K-9
3 unit in 2000 and provided K-9 training assistance to other
4 departments across this Commonwealth. He was an instrumental
5 part of the Westmoreland County Drug Task Force through which
6 he provided drug abuse resistance education to local school
7 children and civic organizations.

8 (4) In addition to his duties with the police
9 department, Lieutenant Eslary was a long-time volunteer with
10 the Wilpen Fire Department, where he founded successful
11 fundraising efforts. He was also a member of the local
12 Masonic chapter and volunteered with various youth sports
13 associations in the county.

14 (b) Designation.--The bridge located on State Route 711 in
15 Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, over the Loyalhanna
16 Creek is hereby designated the Lieutenant Eric Eslary Memorial
17 Bridge.

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

21 Section 2. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect in 60 days.