

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1856 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, READSHAW, NEILSON, HENNESSEY, BAKER, WARREN, CONKLIN, DIGIROLAMO, COX, CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, BIZZARRO, WARD, KINSEY, DONATUCCI, LONGIETTI, BARBIN, DUSH, SONNEY, O'NEILL, SANKEY, A. HARRIS, TOEPEL, CAUSER, MARSICO, HAHN, D. COSTA, PASHINSKI, GROVE, MURT AND WATSON, OCTOBER 12, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 16, 2017

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 271
2 over US Route 22, Jackson Township, Cambria County, as the
3 Trooper Gary Fisher Memorial Bridge; DESIGNATING A BRIDGE ON <--
4 THAT PORTION OF PENNSYLVANIA ROUTE 53 OVER US ROUTE 22,
5 CRESSON TOWNSHIP, CAMBRIA COUNTY, AS THE CORPORAL ROBERT J.
6 SHERWOOD, JR., MEMORIAL BRIDGE; AND DESIGNATING A BRIDGE ON
7 SEGMENT 80 OF STATE ROUTE 2015, ALONG OVERBRIDGE STREET AND
8 OVER RAILROAD STREET, LILLY BOROUGH, CAMBRIA COUNTY, AS THE
9 PAUL E. SWEENEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Trooper Gary Fisher Memorial Bridge.

13 (a) Findings.--The General Assembly finds and declares as
14 follows:

15 (1) Gary W. Fisher was born on April 2, 1958, to William
16 and Patricia Fisher in Johnstown.

17 (2) He enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police on
18 December 8, 1980 at 22 years of age.

19 (3) Following graduation from the State Police Academy,

1 he was assigned to Troop B in Washington County.

2 (4) In May 1983, he transferred to the Region V Strike  
3 Force.

4 (5) On February 3, 1985, at 26 years of age, Trooper  
5 Fisher was shot and killed in the line of duty while  
6 attempting to make an arrest during a drug exchange at the  
7 Crossroads Plaza, East Huntingdon Township, Westmoreland  
8 County.

9 (b) Designation.--The bridge located on that portion of  
10 Pennsylvania Route 271 over US Route 22, Jackson Township,  
11 Cambria County, is designated as the Trooper Gary Fisher  
12 Memorial Bridge.

13 (c) Signs.--The department shall erect and maintain  
14 appropriate signs displaying the name of the bridge to traffic  
15 in both directions on the bridge.

16 SECTION 2. CORPORAL ROBERT J. SHERWOOD, JR., MEMORIAL BRIDGE. <--

17 (A) FINDINGS.--THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES AS  
18 FOLLOWS:

19 (1) CORPORAL ROBERT J. SHERWOOD, JR., WAS BORN IN THE  
20 CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1947, AND  
21 ENLISTED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS DURING THE VIETNAM  
22 WAR.

23 (2) ON APRIL 3, 1967, CORPORAL SHERWOOD MADE THE  
24 ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR HIS COUNTRY. WHILE ON PATROL, HIS UNIT  
25 CAME UNDER ENEMY FIRE AND HE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED HELPING  
26 LOAD INJURED MARINES INTO A MEDICAL HELICOPTER.

27 (3) FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,  
28 CORPORAL SHERWOOD RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MEDALS AND RIBBONS:  
29 PARATROOPER WINGS, PURPLE HEART MEDAL, NATIONAL DEFENSE  
30 MEDAL, VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL AND SHARPSHOOTER BADGE.

1 (B) DESIGNATION.--THE BRIDGE LOCATED ON PENNSYLVANIA ROUTE  
2 53 IN CRESSON TOWNSHIP, CAMBRIA COUNTY OVER US ROUTE 22 IS  
3 DESIGNATED AS THE CORPORAL ROBERT J. SHERWOOD, JR., MEMORIAL  
4 BRIDGE.

5 (C) SIGNS.--THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL ERECT AND  
6 MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE SIGNS DISPLAYING THE NAME OF THE BRIDGE TO  
7 TRAFFIC IN BOTH DIRECTIONS ON THE BRIDGE.

8 SECTION 3. PAUL E. SWEENEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE.

9 (A) FINDINGS.--THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES AS  
10 FOLLOWS:

11 (1) A NATIVE OF LILLY, PENNSYLVANIA, 1ST SERGEANT PAUL  
12 E. SWEENEY SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DURING WORLD WAR  
13 II AS A COMBAT ENGINEER TRAINED IN MINE DEMOLITION AND  
14 SETTING BOOBY TRAPS WITH THE 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION.

15 (2) ON JUNE 17, 1944, HIS SHIP, THE USS SUSAN B.  
16 ANTHONY, HIT A MINE, FORCING THE TROOPS AND CREW TO ABANDON  
17 SHIP.

18 (3) ON JULY 4, 1944, SERGEANT SWEENEY SUFFERED INJURIES  
19 WHEN HE WAS TARGETED BY A GERMAN SNIPER WITH A PERCUSSION  
20 GRENADE.

21 (4) SERGEANT SWEENEY EARNED THE SILVER STAR DUE TO HIS  
22 ACTIONS IN THE VICINITY OF KERLING, FRANCE, ON NOVEMBER 12,  
23 1944, WHEN HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO LEAD A TANK UNIT THROUGH  
24 ENEMY FIRE TO REINFORCE A PATROL TAKING COVER FROM HEAVY  
25 MACHINE GUNS, STRATEGICALLY DEPLOYED THE TANK UNIT TO  
26 ELIMINATE THE MACHINE GUNS AND ADVANCED THROUGH INTENSE  
27 MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE TO ATTACK THE ENEMY AND CAPTURE 10  
28 PRISONERS.

29 (5) IN ADDITION TO THE SILVER STAR, SERGEANT SWEENEY'S  
30 AWARDS INCLUDE THE PURPLE HEART AND THE BRITISH DISTINGUISHED

1 SERVICE MEDAL.

2 (6) ON AUGUST 9, 2016, SERGEANT SWEENEY PASSED AWAY AT  
3 THE AGE OF 96.

4 (B) DESIGNATION.--THE BRIDGE LOCATED ON SEGMENT 80 OF STATE  
5 ROUTE 2015, ALONG OVERBRIDGE STREET AND OVER RAILROAD STREET,  
6 LILLY BOROUGH, CAMBRIA COUNTY, IS DESIGNATED AS THE PAUL E.  
7 SWEENEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE.

8 (C) SIGNS.--THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL ERECT AND  
9 MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE SIGNS DISPLAYING THE NAME OF THE BRIDGE TO  
10 TRAFFIC IN BOTH DIRECTIONS ON THE BRIDGE.

11 Section 2 4. Effective date.

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12 This act shall take effect in 60 days.