

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2688 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY DeLISSIO, OCTOBER 2, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, OCTOBER 2, 2018

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 4001, also  
 2 known as Henry Avenue, over the Wissahickon Creek and Lincoln  
 3 Drive in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia County, as the  
 4 Brigadier General Anna Mae V. McCabe Hays Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. Brigadier General Anna Mae V. McCabe Hays Memorial  
 8 Bridge.

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

11 (1) In 1941, Anna Mae V. McCabe Hays graduated with a  
 12 degree in nursing from the Allentown General Hospital School  
 13 of Nursing.

14 (2) After the attack on Pearl Harbor, a sense of duty  
 15 inspired her to join the Army Nurse Corps and she entered  
 16 active duty in 1942.

17 (3) In 1943, she was deployed for two and a half years  
 18 to Ledo, Assam, India, where she was assigned to the  
 19 operating room and her unit provided care to more than 49,000

1 patients, including American soldiers who were building an  
2 overland communication route to China, fighting the Japanese  
3 in Burma and flying supplies over the Himalayan Mountains to  
4 Chinese forces.

5 (4) In 1945, she was promoted to first lieutenant and  
6 chose to remain on active duty after World War II when she  
7 was assigned to Tilton General Hospital at Fort Dix, New  
8 Jersey, as an operating room supervisor and later as head  
9 nurse.

10 (5) In 1947, she was promoted to captain and  
11 subsequently became the obstetrics supervisor at Valley Forge  
12 General Hospital in Phoenixville.

13 (6) In 1950, after hostilities broke out in Korea, she  
14 mobilized with the 4th Field Hospital at Fort Benning,  
15 Georgia, where she participated in the notorious Inchon  
16 Landing on September 15, 1950, and assisted the 4th Field  
17 Hospital in caring for more than 25,000 patients.

18 (7) In May 1956, she reported for duty as head nurse of  
19 the Emergency Room at Walter Reed General Hospital in  
20 Washington, DC, where she was one of the private nurses to  
21 care for President Dwight D. Eisenhower while he was  
22 hospitalized there for 23 days after suffering an ileitis  
23 attack.

24 (8) In 1958, she graduated from Columbia University  
25 Teacher's College with a bachelor of science degree in  
26 nursing education.

27 (9) In October 1960, she became chief nurse of the 11th  
28 Evacuation Hospital in Pusan, South Korea.

29 (10) In September 1963, she was selected as Assistant  
30 Chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

1           (11) On September 1, 1967, Anna Mae V. McCabe Hays was  
2 sworn in as the 13th Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, where she  
3 guided the Army Nurse Corps during the worst fighting of the  
4 Vietnam War.

5           (12) In 1968, she was promoted to colonel and received a  
6 master of science in nursing from the Catholic University of  
7 America.

8           (13) On June 11, 1970, Anna Mae V. McCabe Hays was  
9 promoted to brigadier general and became the first woman in  
10 the United States Armed Forces to achieve the rank of  
11 general.

12           (14) Her recommendations to Surgeon General Hal B.  
13 Jennings led to groundbreaking reforms in personnel policies,  
14 including the elimination of automatic discharges for married  
15 officers who became pregnant and the elimination of  
16 restrictions on the age of dependents of female nurses  
17 seeking appointment in the Army Nurse Corps Reserve.

18           (15) She retired as Chief of the Army Nurse Corps on  
19 August 31, 1971, after serving in the position for four  
20 years.

21           (16) On January 7, 2018, she passed away at the age of  
22 97 and Governor Tom Wolf ordered the Commonwealth flag at the  
23 Capitol Complex and at all State facilities in Allentown to  
24 fly at half staff in honor of her memory.

25           (17) Her numerous awards included the Distinguished  
26 Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal,  
27 American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with  
28 one service star, World War II Victory Medal, Army of  
29 Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with oak  
30 leaf cluster, Korean Service Medal with three service stars

1 and the United Nations Service Medal (Korea).

2 (b) Designation.--The bridge located on that portion of  
3 State Route 4001, also known as Henry Avenue, over the  
4 Wissahickon Creek and Lincoln Drive in Fairmount Park,  
5 Philadelphia County, is designated as the Brigadier General Anna  
6 Mae V. McCabe Hays Memorial Bridge.

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

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.