
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1597 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY GILLEN, NEILSON, DONATUCCI, SONNEY, COX, BIZZARRO,
KORTZ, DIGIROLAMO, GREINER, HILL-EVANS, BURNS, MILLARD, RYAN,
READSHAW, WILLIAMS, YOUNGBLOOD, OBERLANDER, HAHN,
CALTAGIRONE, MARKOSEK, LONGIETTI, STAATS, MOUL AND SCHWEYER,
JUNE 10, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 10, 2019

AN ACT

1 Designating the highway interchange of U.S. Route 222 with Mohns
2 Hill Road, Cumru Township, Berks County, as the PVT Mahlon L.
3 Fink Iwo Jima Memorial Highway Interchange.

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

6 Section 1. PVT Mahlon L. Fink Iwo Jima Memorial Highway
7 Interchange.

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

10 (1) Mahlon L. Fink lived a life of dedicated and humble
11 service to his community and to this Commonwealth.

12 (2) Mr. Fink was born December 1, 1925, in what is now
13 the Daniel Boone Homestead.

14 (3) Mr. Fink was a student at Reading High School, when
15 he was compelled by a sense of duty to join the war effort.
16 He dropped out of school following his sophomore year and
17 joined the United States Marine Corps on his 18th birthday.

1 (4) Mr. Fink was a member of the 5th Marine Division in
2 the Pacific Theater.

3 (5) Mr. Fink and his company landed on Iwo Jima on
4 February 16, 1945, as one of the first units in combat.

5 (6) On the 12th day of combat, Mr. Fink was injured when
6 a mortar round fell near him sending shrapnel into his legs.
7 As a result of his injuries, Mr. Fink was awarded the Purple
8 Heart.

9 (7) Mr. Fink was present on Iwo Jima when the United
10 States flag was raised on Mt. Suribachi and he witnessed the
11 raising from the beaches below.

12 (8) After being discharged from service, Mr. Fink owned
13 his own painting and paper hanging business, where he painted
14 and wallpapered many of the finest homes in Berks County for
15 52 years until his retirement.

16 (9) Mr. Fink was very active in the Marine Corps League
17 and was a lifetime member of the Russell M. Butterweck
18 Detachment where he served as chaplain.

19 (10) Mr. Fink was also a lifetime member of the
20 Adamstown V.F.W. and a member of the Wyomissing U.C.C. where
21 he was a Deacon and Elder of the church, serving as president
22 in 1979.

23 (11) Fifty years after joining the Marine Corps, Mr.
24 Fink was awarded an honorary diploma by Reading High School.

25 (12) Mr. Fink also participated in many veterans events
26 speaking to high school children, nursing home residents and
27 Boy Scout troops telling the story of his service to keep the
28 memory of World War II alive.

29 (13) Mr. Fink passed away on February 27, 2019.

30 (b) Designation.--The highway interchange of U.S. Route 222

1 with Mohns Hill Road in Cumru Township, Berks County, is
2 designated the PVT Mahlon L. Fink Iwo Jima Memorial Highway
3 Interchange.

4 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
5 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the
6 interchange to traffic in both directions on the interchange.

7 Section 2. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect in 60 days.