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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2733 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY BURNS, GALLOWAY, MULLERY, HENNESSEY, SONNEY, COX,  
JAMES, MILLARD, RYAN, SCHMITT, LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS, MURT,  
HOWARD, CALTAGIRONE, T. DAVIS, ROZZI, HEFFLEY, JOZWIAK,  
NEILSON, KINSEY, DEASY, READSHAW AND CIRESI, JULY 30, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JULY 30, 2020

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AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8391, on that  
2 portion of Pennsylvania Route 53 over Laurel Run, also known  
3 as Lost Creek, in Dean Township, Cambria County, as the  
4 Seaman 2nd Class Louis J. Benzie WWII Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. Seaman 2nd Class Louis J. Benzie WWII Memorial  
8 Bridge.

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

11 (1) One of nine children, Louis J. Benzie was born on  
12 February 25, 1924, to Josephine and Louis Benzie in Dysart,  
13 Pennsylvania.

14 (2) He served in the United States Navy during World War  
15 II as a Seaman 2nd Class, and was assigned to the destroyer  
16 U.S.S. Maddox which departed Norfolk, Virginia, on June 8,  
17 1943.

18 (3) The U.S.S. Maddox became a unit of Task Force 81,

1 the assault force for the invasion of Sicily, Italy.

2 (4) On July 10, 1943, the U.S.S. Maddox was attacked by  
3 a German dive bomber while on antisubmarine patrol about 16  
4 miles off the shore of Sicily, taking a direct hit. The ship  
5 rolled over and sank within two minutes.

6 (5) During the attack, Seaman 2nd Class Louis J. Benzie  
7 was killed in action at the age of 19, along with many of his  
8 fellow sailors.

9 (6) Seaman 2nd Class Louis J. Benzie's body was never  
10 recovered. He was declared dead on July 11, 1944, and awarded  
11 the Purple Heart posthumously.

12 (b) Designation.--The bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8391,  
13 on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 53 over Laurel Run, also  
14 known as Lost Creek, in Dean Township, Cambria County, is  
15 designated as the Seaman 2nd Class Louis J. Benzie WWII Memorial  
16 Bridge.

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

20 Section 2. Effective date.

21 This act shall take effect in 60 days.