

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 43 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY K. WARD, JANUARY 11, 2019

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 11, 2019

AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of U.S. Route 30 in Hempfield Township,
 2 Southwest Greensburg Borough, the City of Greensburg, and
 3 South Greensburg Borough, Westmoreland County, as the J.
 4 Edward "Hutch" Hutchinson Memorial Bypass.

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

7 Section 1. J. Edward "Hutch" Hutchinson Memorial Bypass.

8 (a) Findings.--

9 (1) J. Edward "Hutch" Hutchinson was born and raised in
 10 Greensburg, Westmoreland County. "Hutch" passed away April
 11 15, 2018, at the age of 96 after spending most of those years
 12 in overwhelming service to his community.

13 (2) "Hutch" was a long-serving member and chief of
 14 Greensburg Hose Company No. 3. Having joined the volunteer
 15 fire company on his 18th birthday in 1939, "Hutch" was active
 16 in the fire department for more than 78 years. Throughout
 17 that time period, he was absent from the department only
 18 while serving in the Marine Corps during World War II.

19 (3) "Hutch" was sworn in as chief of the department in

1 January 1953 and continually served until his retirement on
2 November 14, 2016. During his 63 years as chief, "Hutch"
3 never missed a fire call.

4 (4) Chief Hutchinson developed many new programs and
5 initiatives for the Greensburg Fire Department, several of
6 which have allowed the department to provide vital assistance
7 in emergencies far beyond Greensburg.

8 (5) Chief Hutchinson created the department's scuba dive
9 team in 1958. Since its formation, the Greensburg Volunteer
10 Fire Department Dive Team has logged more than 1,000
11 recoveries both locally and nationally, recovering drowning
12 victims, vehicles, stolen property, weapons and miscellaneous
13 items.

14 (6) In February 1969, Chief Hutchinson's idea to form a
15 bloodhound team within the department became a reality with
16 12 volunteer firemen and two dogs. Today, the team has grown
17 to more than 25 volunteer firefighters and seven active
18 bloodhounds, responding to approximately 25 to 35 calls
19 annually to assist with locating missing children; persons
20 missing from institutions, nursing homes and senior care
21 living facilities; Alzheimer patients; and robbery suspects.

22 (7) In addition to the scuba dive team and bloodhound
23 team, Chief Hutchinson was also responsible for the
24 establishment of the department's rope rescue team and
25 confined space rescue team and the department's procurement
26 of vital equipment such as the high-expansion foam truck and
27 the first Hurst hydraulic vehicle rescue tools.

28 (8) Under Chief Hutchinson's leadership, members of the
29 Greensburg Fire Department provided assistance to other
30 communities in need, including Hurricane Hugo relief efforts

1 in South Carolina and helping to successfully rescue the nine
2 miners of the Quecreek mine collapse. When the chief saw a
3 need, he responded and motivated others to do the same,
4 whether it was for a local family who lost their possessions
5 in a fire or a poor school in Selma, Alabama, in need of
6 equipment and supplies.

7 (9) Aside from his service as fire chief, "Hutch" was
8 also instrumental in many community projects in Westmoreland
9 County such as the Aerobic Center, Air Rescue East helicopter
10 service, Mutual Aid Ambulance Service, the fitness center at
11 Greensburg Salem High School and sports fields and various
12 pavilions throughout Greensburg. "Hutch" is credited with
13 helping to create the Westmoreland County 911 system in the
14 1970s and served for many years on Excelsa Westmoreland
15 Hospital's board of directors.

16 (10) Chief Hutchinson was someone who never sought and
17 rarely accepted public accolades, but he was the first
18 recipient of the "Pennsylvania Fireman of the Year" award on
19 September 26, 1964.

20 (b) Designation.--The portion of U.S. Route 30 in
21 Westmoreland County from North Greengate Road, Hempfield
22 Township, to East Pittsburgh Street, Hempfield Township, is
23 hereby designated the J. Edward "Hutch" Hutchinson Memorial
24 Bypass.

25 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
26 maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the highway to
27 traffic in both directions on the highway.

28 Section 2. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect in 60 days.