
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1407 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY EVERETT, WHEELAND, HENNESSEY, KOTIK, BENNINGHOFF,
COHEN, ROZZI, READSHAW, BAKER, DUSH, SONNEY, REGAN,
DIGIROLAMO, HARHART, CAUSER, VEREB, MARSICO, PICKETT, MURT,
MCNEILL, MAJOR, MILLARD, DAVIS, DONATUCCI, GROVE, HAHN, RAPP,
SANKEY, COX, GOODMAN, BARRAR, PAYNE, THOMAS, M. K. KELLER,
FARINA, YOUNGBLOOD, GILLEN AND JOZWIAK, JUNE 25, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 25, 2015

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge on State Route 2014 over the Muncy Creek in
2 Muncy Creek Township, Lycoming County, as the Private Walter
3 L. Smith Spanish-American War Memorial Bridge.

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

6 Section 1. Private Walter L. Smith Spanish-American War
7 Memorial Bridge.

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

10 (1) Private Walter L. Smith was born on April 27, 1877,
11 in Muncy, Lycoming County. He was the son of David S. Smith,
12 a Civil War veteran, and Hannah (Colley) Smith. Private Smith
13 served in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine
14 Insurrection.

15 (2) Private Smith first entered the service at
16 Williamsport on May 7, 1898, and mustered into service May

1 12, 1898, as a private in Company D, 12th Pennsylvania
2 Volunteer Infantry. He mustered out and was honorably
3 discharged on November 1, 1898.

4 (3) Private Smith reenlisted on November 11, 1898, at
5 Philadelphia during the Time of the Peace Jubilee, with the
6 rank of Private in the U.S. Army, Company I, 1st U.S.
7 Volunteer Infantry, as a member of the foot service, heavy
8 artillery. From December 29, 1898, to September 6, 1900, he
9 was assigned to Guanajay Barracks, Cuba. He arrived in the
10 Philippines on April 15, 1901.

11 (4) On July 28, 1901, while on a supply patrol with a
12 small detachment, Private Smith bravely and selflessly
13 defended members of his company against an overwhelming
14 ambush attack by approximately 60 native insurgents at Don
15 Carlon, Samar, Philippine Islands. During the engagement, his
16 Sergeant, the only other man who was armed, was shot and
17 killed by the insurgents. As Private Smith courageously and
18 fearlessly fought alone, two unarmed soldiers were able to
19 escape and return to camp. Private Smith was soon overpowered
20 by the enemy and severely wounded, being stabbed several
21 times. He was captured and taken prisoner. The U.S. Army
22 conducted multiple searches to locate Private Smith.

23 (5) Private Walter L. Smith was listed as missing in
24 action until February 10, 1902, when the fact was
25 established, beyond a doubt, that he had met his death at the
26 hands of the insurgents on the date of his capture, July 28,
27 1901. His remains were never recovered for return home to his
28 family in Muncy.

29 (b) Designation.--The bridge on State Route 2014 over the
30 Muncy Creek in Muncy Creek Township, Lycoming County, is hereby

1 designated the Private Walter L. Smith Spanish-American War
2 Memorial Bridge.

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

6 Section 2. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect in 60 days.