
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1431 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MASSER, GOODMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, HENNESSEY,
TOOHIL, YOUNGBLOOD, SAMUELSON, DERMODY, PETRARCA,
CALTAGIRONE, THOMAS, HELM, MALONEY, READSHAW, DiGIROLAMO,
MILLARD, SAINATO, O'BRIEN, CAUSER, WHEELAND, WARD, MARSICO,
FREEMAN, A. HARRIS, D. COSTA, SAYLOR, PETRI AND DeLUCA,
MAY 23, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MAY 23, 2017

AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of State Routes 54, 901 and 2023 in
2 Northumberland County and Schuylkill County as the Honorable
3 Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Memorial Highway.

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

6 Section 1. Honorable Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Memorial Highway.

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

9 (1) The Honorable Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., represented
10 the 107th Legislative District, covering portions of
11 Columbia, Montour, Northumberland and Schuylkill Counties
12 from 1981 to 2010.

13 (2) During his 30 years in the House of Representatives,
14 Representative Belfanti served on numerous committees and was
15 chairperson of the Labor Relations Committee from 1993 to
16 2010.

1 (3) Representative Belfanti was active on numerous State
2 boards and commissions and championed workers, small
3 businesses, veterans and improved accessibility for the
4 disabled.

5 (4) Representative Belfanti attended Mount Carmel area
6 schools and was a lifelong scout, earning the rank of Eagle
7 Scout in 1962 and returning to scouting as an adult as a
8 charter member of Cub Scout Pack 3178.

9 (5) Representative Belfanti and his wife, Cecilia, were
10 instrumental in bringing scouting back to the Mount Carmel
11 area following a long dormancy, and Representative Belfanti
12 received numerous awards during his 25 years of service.

13 (6) Before becoming a State Representative,
14 Representative Belfanti enlisted in the United States Marine
15 Corps and served a 13-month tour of duty in the Vietnam War
16 with helicopter units that supplied troops, ammunition and
17 medical supplies to Marines and rescued the wounded.

18 (7) Representative Belfanti rose to the rank of sergeant
19 and was highly decorated when he was honorably discharged in
20 1971.

21 (8) Representative Belfanti was active in numerous
22 veteran organizations and cofounded the Black Diamond
23 Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

24 (9) Representative Belfanti's legacy includes saving the
25 former Shamokin State General Hospital from divestiture, the
26 opening of State Correctional Institution Coal Township,
27 resolving issues related to the Centralia mine fire, the
28 Shamokin Creek project, championing numerous abandoned mine
29 reclamation projects and helping with many rail improvement
30 and economic development projects in the district.

1 (10) Representative Belfanti was also instrumental in
2 securing funding for the State Route 901 widening project
3 from Locust Summit to Interstate 81, as well as the Strong
4 Connector improvement project.

5 (b) Designation.--The portion of State Routes 54 and 901 in
6 Northumberland County and Schuylkill County from the
7 intersection of State Route 54, State Route 901 and State Route
8 2023, also known as the Mount Carmel Merriam Highway, in Mount
9 Carmel Township, Northumberland County, to the intersection of
10 State Route 901, also known as Fairgrounds Road, and High Road
11 in Butler Township, Schuylkill County, is hereby designated as
12 the Honorable Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Memorial Highway.

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

16 Section 2. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect in 60 days.