
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 555 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MALONEY, TOEPEL, GILLEN, KNOWLES, O'NEILL, COX,
LONGIETTI, HENNESSEY, RYAN, DIGIROLAMO, SACCONI, JAMES, DUSH,
SONNEY, MURT, D. COSTA, ROZZI, MILLARD, CALTAGIRONE, MARSICO,
WARD, SAYLOR, PICKETT, IRVIN AND GABLER, FEBRUARY 17, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, FEBRUARY 17, 2017

AN ACT

1 Designating a portion of State Route 562 in Berks County as the
2 General Carl A. Spaatz Memorial Highway.

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

5 Section 1. General Carl A. Spaatz Memorial Highway.

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

8 (1) Carl Andrew "Tooey" Spaatz was born in Boyertown,
9 Berks County, on June 28, 1891.

10 (2) Drawn to aviation, after graduating from West Point
11 in 1914 and being commissioned as a second lieutenant in the
12 infantry, Mr. Spaatz studied at the Aviation School at San
13 Diego, California.

14 (3) Mr. Spaatz served with the 1st Aero Squadron as a
15 first lieutenant under General John "Black Jack" Pershing
16 during the Punitive Expedition into Mexico.

17 (4) After being promoted to captain in May 1917, Mr.

1 Spaatz served in France with the American Expeditionary
2 Forces during World War I and, as a fighter pilot, shot down
3 three German Fokker planes behind enemy lines, which earned
4 him the Distinguished Service Cross.

5 (5) Mr. Spaatz was promoted to major on July 1, 1920,
6 and during the interwar years he proceeded up the ranks of a
7 peacetime Air Corps.

8 (6) Mr. Spaatz was awarded the Distinguished Flying
9 Cross for commanding the refueling endurance flight of the
10 Question Mark plane from January 1 through 7, 1929, during
11 which the plane broke a record for sustained flight.

12 (7) After the United States entered into World War II,
13 in 1942, Mr. Spaatz was named chief of the Air Force Combat
14 Command and was sent to England to initiate the planning
15 stages for the United States Army Air Forces in Europe.

16 (8) Later in 1942, Mr. Spaatz was named commander of the
17 United States Army Air Forces in Europe.

18 (9) In 1943, Mr. Spaatz commanded the Twelfth Air Force
19 in North Africa where his forces played a pivotal role in
20 reducing Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps.

21 (10) In 1944, Mr. Spaatz returned to England and was
22 named the commanding general of the United States Strategic
23 Air Forces in Europe.

24 (11) In this role, Mr. Spaatz played a key role in
25 Operation Overlord, more commonly known as D-Day, by
26 directing the Allied aerial attacks covering the landings on
27 the beaches of Normandy.

28 (12) Mr. Spaatz also commanded the strategic bombing of
29 Germany.

30 (13) On March 11, 1945, Mr. Spaatz received a temporary

1 promotion to general and later was named commander of the
2 United States Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific where he
3 supervised the final strategic bombings of Japan, including
4 two atomic bomb missions.

5 (13) Mr. Spaatz was the only man of general rank or
6 equivalent to attend all three surrender ceremonies that
7 ended World War II.

8 (14) In 1946, Mr. Spaatz was named commander-in-chief of
9 the Army Air Forces, and in 1947 he was named the first chief
10 of staff of the newly independent United States Air Force.

11 (15) Mr. Spaatz retired from military service in 1948
12 and passed away on July 14, 1974.

13 (b) Designation.--The portion of State Route 562 in Berks
14 County from the intersection with State Route 73 in the Borough
15 of Boyertown to the intersection with State Route 662 at the
16 township line between Amity Township and Oley Township is hereby
17 designated the General Carl A. Spaatz Memorial Highway.

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

21 Section 2. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect in 60 days.