
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 593 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, APRIL 26, 2019

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, APRIL 26, 2019

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 15986, on that
2 portion of Interstate 79 northbound over West 16th Street in
3 the City of Erie, Erie County, as the Thomas J. Kennedy, Jr.,
4 Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. Thomas J. Kennedy, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

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

10 (1) Thomas J. Kennedy, Jr., was born May 18, 1930, in
11 the City of Erie, Erie County, and served the United States
12 in the Marine Corps, where he reached the rank of Captain.

13 (2) Captain Kennedy was the Senior Battalion Advisor to
14 the Fifth Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Brigade, in the
15 hostile area of Phu An, Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam.

16 (3) On June 12, 1966, Captain Kennedy was with the Fifth
17 Battalion Command Post when the lead elements were pinned
18 down by heavy enemy fire and the Command Post was destroyed
19 by enemy mortar and rifle fire, killing the Battalion

1 Commander, the Battalion Surgeon, key staff officers and
2 numerous soldiers.

3 (4) Although suffering multiple shrapnel wounds, Captain
4 Kennedy located a radio and, with his last breath, reported
5 the situation, allowing the battalion to set up a defensive
6 perimeter and repulse repeated enemy attacks.

7 (5) Despite his mortal wounds, Captain Kennedy prevented
8 enemy forces from overrunning the remaining battalion units
9 and valiantly gave his life protecting the lives of his
10 fellow Marines.

11 (6) For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action,
12 Captain Kennedy was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the
13 third-highest personal decoration for valor in combat.

14 (b) Designation.--The bridge, identified as Bridge Key
15 15986, on that portion of Interstate 79 northbound over West
16 16th Street in the City of Erie, Erie County, is designated the
17 Thomas J. Kennedy, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

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

21 Section 2. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect in 60 days.