

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 814 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY PITTMAN, JUNE 14, 2023

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 14, 2023

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 47515, carrying
 2 Pennsylvania Route 286 over Blacklegs Creek in Conemaugh
 3 Township, Indiana County, as the Captain Robert M. Young
 4 Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. Captain Robert M. Young Memorial Bridge.

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

10 (1) Robert Milton Young was born January 17, 1945, in
 11 New Alexandria and spent most of his adult life in Saltsburg,
 12 where he lived with his aunt, Clayre Rochella.

13 (2) Captain Young graduated from Saltsburg High School
 14 and attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he was
 15 commissioned through the Army ROTC on May 28, 1967.

16 (3) Captain Young went on to attend Infantry School,
 17 Ranger School and Armor School before serving with Company A,
 18 2nd Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Armored
 19 Division in Europe from January 1968 to August 1969.

1 (4) Captain Young was transferred to the 184th Ordnance
2 Battalion in the Republic of Vietnam and served as the
3 Commander of the 630th Ordnance Company from August 1969
4 until January 1970, when he was transferred to the Infantry
5 Branch and served with Headquarters 2nd Battalion, 34th
6 Armored Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division.

7 (5) On May 2, 1970, Captain Young was a passenger aboard
8 a UH-1H Iroquois helicopter on a logistical support mission
9 to Katum fire support base in Vietnam.

10 (6) During its flight, the helicopter sustained damage
11 from ground fire and was forced to make an emergency landing
12 along the border of Cambodia and South Vietnam where, upon
13 landing, Captain Young and the others aboard the helicopter
14 were captured and taken as prisoners of war in Cambodia.

15 (7) While serving as a prisoner of war, Captain Young
16 helped to carry out a hunger strike to back the senior
17 ranking officer who had been denied food and water for
18 refusing to make fungi sticks.

19 (8) Following several days of the hunger strike, Captain
20 Young became sick with Malaria and was unable to consume any
21 food upon completion of the strike.

22 (9) On September 17, 1972, Captain Young succumbed to
23 his illness while in captivity.

24 (10) Because of his valor and courage while serving as a
25 prisoner of war in Cambodia, Captain Young was awarded the
26 Silver Star.

27 (11) Captain Young's remains returned to the United
28 States on December 7, 1997, and he is buried in Edgewood
29 Cemetery in Saltsburg.

30 (b) Designation.--The bridge, identified as Bridge Key

1 47515, carrying Pennsylvania Route 286 over Blacklegs Creek in
2 Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, is designated the Captain
3 Robert M. Young Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 2. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect in 60 days.