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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1946 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY HERSHEY, BERNSTINE, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER,  
COX, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DUSH, GREINER, HENNESSEY,  
HICKERNELL, HILL-EVANS, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, KINSEY, KORTZ,  
LONGIETTI, METZGAR, MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, PICKETT, ROTHMAN,  
RYAN, SAINATO, SCHMITT, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, STAATS AND TOEPEL,  
OCTOBER 18, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, OCTOBER 18, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge, identified by Bridge Key 46789, on that  
2 portion of State Route 3012 over Back Creek on the border of  
3 Hamilton Township and St. Thomas Township, Franklin County,  
4 as the Sergeant Melvin G. Ehrhart Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. Sergeant Melvin G. Ehrhart Memorial Bridge.

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

10 (1) Melvin G. Ehrhart was born on September 28, 1948,  
11 and served in the United States Army, where he reached the  
12 rank of sergeant.

13 (2) From October 10, 1968, until his death on April 28,  
14 1969, Sergeant Ehrhart served with Company D, 4th Battalion,  
15 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in the Republic of  
16 Vietnam.

17 (3) Sergeant Ehrhart actively participated in more than

1 25 aerial missions over hostile territory in support of  
2 counterinsurgency operations.

3 (4) On April 28, 1969, Sergeant Ehrhart's platoon came  
4 under attack from a numerically superior hostile force, and  
5 he courageously exposed himself to danger in order to direct  
6 his troops into effective fighting positions.

7 (5) Although seriously wounded by an enemy grenade,  
8 Sergeant Ehrhart continued to lead his men until he was  
9 mortally wounded by enemy fire.

10 (6) For his extraordinary heroism, Sergeant Ehrhart was  
11 posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

12 (7) Prior to his death, Sergeant Ehrhart was recognized  
13 with the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism for his actions  
14 on January 25, 1969.

15 (8) On that date, Sergeant Ehrhart's platoon was on a  
16 cordon and search mission when it twice encountered command  
17 detonated mines and heavy automatic and semi-automatic  
18 weapons.

19 (9) While under enemy fire, Sergeant Ehrhart gave a  
20 detailed account of the situation and relayed instructions to  
21 the squads.

22 (10) Sergeant Ehrhart was also awarded the National  
23 Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple  
24 Heart, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal,  
25 the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, the Air Medal-  
26 Second Oak Leaf, the Army Commendation Medal-First Oak Leaf  
27 Cluster with "V" Device, the Bronze Star, the Bronze Star-  
28 First Oak Leaf and the Bronze Star-Second Oak Leaf.

29 (b) Designation.--The bridge, identified by Bridge Key  
30 46789, on that portion of State Route 3012 over Back Creek on

1 the border of Hamilton Township and St. Thomas Township,  
2 Franklin County, is designated the Sergeant Melvin G. Ehrhart  
3 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. This act shall take effect in 60 days.