

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1683 Session of  
2025

INTRODUCED BY BOROWICZ, VITALI, STAATS, COOK, ROWE, WARNER AND  
GILLEN, JUNE 30, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 30, 2025

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 12334, carrying  
2 State Route 2012 over McElhattan Creek in Wayne Township,  
3 Clinton County, as the Master Sergeant Robert F. Johnson  
4 Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. Master Sergeant Robert F. Johnson Memorial Bridge.

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

10 (1) Robert F. "Bobby" Johnson was born July 21, 1929.

11 (2) Master Sergeant Johnson was the son of George S. and  
12 Alice Knarr Johnson.

13 (3) Master Sergeant Johnson was a veteran of the United  
14 States Air Force, enlisting in 1947 and retiring in 1969 as a  
15 Master Sergeant.

16 (4) Master Sergeant Johnson was initially assigned to an  
17 Air Police squadron during the Berlin Airlift and  
18 subsequently applied for pararescue training and spent the  
19 next 20 years as a rescue parachutist and diver assigned to

1 the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service.

2 (5) Master Sergeant Johnson made more than 350 parachute  
3 jumps during his career and participated in rescue operations  
4 in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the United States.

5 (6) Master Sergeant Johnson was assigned to support  
6 NASA's Mercury and Gemini spaceflight programs, parachuting  
7 and diving to recover NASA equipment and space capsules.

8 (7) When the Gemini III space capsule splashed down into  
9 the Atlantic Ocean on March 23, 1965, bringing astronauts  
10 Virgil "Gus" Grissom and John Young safely back to Earth,  
11 Master Sergeant Johnson was the first diver to reach the  
12 capsule.

13 (8) Master Sergeant Johnson's awards and qualifications  
14 included the Master Parachutist and Enlisted Aircrew Badges,  
15 Dive Badge, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force  
16 Outstanding Unit Award and Good Conduct Medal.

17 (9) Master Sergeant Johnson was a Life Member of the  
18 Wayne Township Fire Department and involved in many other  
19 organizations.

20 (10) Robert F. Johnson passed away at his home in  
21 Youngdale on February 2, 2022, at the age of 92.

22 (b) Designation.--The bridge, identified as Bridge Key  
23 12334, carrying State Route 2012 over McElhattan Creek in Wayne  
24 Township, Clinton County, is designated as the Master Sergeant  
25 Robert F. Johnson Memorial Bridge.

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

29 Section 2. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 60 days.