

No. 2009-47

AN ACT

HB 1468

Designating a portion of PA Route 378 in Bethlehem, Lehigh County, as the Fred B. Rooney Highway; and designating the bridge that carries State Route 1008, known as Henry Road, over Bushkill Creek in Bushkill Township, Northampton County, as the William Henry Atherton Bridge.

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

Section 1. Fred B. Rooney Highway.

(a) Findings.—The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) Fred B. Rooney was born the son of an Irish-Catholic immigrant in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on November 6, 1925, attended the city's public school and graduated from Bethlehem High School in 1944.

(2) Fred B. Rooney served in the United States Army from February 1944 to April 1946 and served in the European Theatre as a paratrooper during World War II.

(3) Fred B. Rooney returned home to the United States and earned a degree in business administration from the University of Georgia at Athens in 1950.

(4) After working in the real estate and insurance business, Fred B. Rooney was elected to two terms in the Pennsylvania State Senate, from November 5, 1958, until he resigned August 6, 1963.

(5) While serving as a Senator, Fred B. Rooney dedicated his energy to serving as a full-time legislator and also serving as chairman of the Senate Highway Committee for a time.

(6) Fred B. Rooney won a special election to the Eighty-eighth Congress in 1963 and served until January 3, 1979, after winning seven succeeding reelection bids.

(7) While in Congress, Fred B. Rooney was a staunch advocate and supporter for Bethlehem redevelopment initiatives, economic aid for economically distressed communities, restrictions on imported goods and increases in Federal aid for education. He was also a champion of medical care for the elderly.

(8) Fred B. Rooney served on the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, and also served as the subcommittee chair on Transportation and Commerce.

(9) It is largely through his endeavors that PA Route 378 runs through the City of Bethlehem.

(b) Designation.—That portion of PA Route 378 from U.S. Route 22 to the Hill to Hill Bridge in Bethlehem, Lehigh County is hereby designated as the "Fred B. Rooney Highway."

(c) Signs.—The Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain signs to traffic in both directions to indicate the designation under subsection (b).

Section 1.1. William Henry Atherton Bridge.

(a) Findings.—The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) William Henry Atherton is a direct descendant of the historically significant family of Henry gun makers. The Henry family represents five generations of early American gun makers commencing with William Henry of Lancaster in 1729 to Granville Henry in 1912. The Henry Gun Works was located on the Boulton Plantation near Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

(2) William Henry Atherton retired from a long and successful career in the aerospace industry and has returned to reside at the John Joseph Henry House on the Boulton Plantation, which is now home to the Jacobsburg Historical Society and the Pennsylvania Long Rifle Museum.

(3) William Henry Atherton has assumed a leadership position on the Board of Directors for the Jacobsburg Historical Society and has dedicated himself to preserving the Henry Family Legacy well into the future.

(b) Designation.—The bridge that carries State Route 1008, known as Henry Road, over Bushkill Creek in Bushkill Township, Northampton County, is hereby designated and shall be known as the William Henry Atherton Bridge.

(c) Signs.—The Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain appropriate signs at each end of the bridge to indicate the designation under subsection (b).

Section 2. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 9th day of October, A.D. 2009.

EDWARD G. RENDELL