

## No. 2002-178

## AN ACT

## HB 2296

Designating a portion of the Mon/Fayette Expressway, State Route 43, as the Yohogania County Courthouse Highway; designating the Mon/Fayette Expressway interchange connecting to Commonwealth Avenue and State Route 837 in the City of Duquesne as the First Sergeant Leonard Funk, Jr., Interchange; designating the Mon/Fayette Expressway interchange with East Pittsburgh-McKeesport Boulevard in North Versailles as the Captain Michael John Estocin Interchange; designating an interchange of the Mon/Fayette Expressway with I-376 in Monroeville, Westmoreland County, as the Captain James A. Graham Interchange; designating the half interchange including only the westbound Mon/Fayette Expressway to I-376 and eastbound I-376 to Mon/Fayette in the City of Pittsburgh as the Lance Corporal William R. Prom Interchange; designating the Mon/Fayette Expressway interchange with Sixth Street in Braddock as the Ensign Henry Clay Drexler Interchange; designating the half interchange of the Mon/Fayette Expressway, including only westbound off and eastbound on movements, with Second Avenue in the City of Pittsburgh as the Corporal Charles E. Kelly Interchange; designating the interchange with Business Route 22 in Wilkins Township, Allegheny County, as the Staff Sergeant John Minick Interchange; designating the half interchange with access road connecting to Thompson Run Road in Penn Hills Township as the Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel Interchange; designating the interchange with Second Avenue at the north end of Glenwood Bridge in the City of Pittsburgh as the Private First Class John "Jack" Kelly Interchange; designating the interchange connecting Camp Hollow Road in West Mifflin and Pittsburgh-McKeesport Boulevard (Richland Avenue) in Dravosburg as the Private Franklin J. Phillips Interchange; designating a section of State Route 1011 in Clearfield, Cameron and Elk Counties as the Quehanna Highway; and designating the interchange, Exit 44, at Route 136 and Dry Run Road in Washington County as the Staff Sergeant Karl Gorman Taylor, Sr., Interchange.

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

**Section 1. Yohogania County Courthouse Highway.**

(a) Designation authorized.—The Mon/Fayette Expressway, State Route 43, beginning at the Allegheny/Washington County border north to the intersection with State Route 51 in the borough of Jefferson Hills is designated as the Yohogania County Courthouse Highway.

(b) Signs.—Appropriate signs shall be posted and maintained by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

**Section 2. First Sergeant Leonard Funk, Jr., Interchange.**

(a) Findings.—

(1) First Sergeant Leonard Funk, born in Braddock Hills, distinguished himself by gallant, intrepid actions against the enemy at Holzheim, Belgium, on January 29, 1945.

(2) After advancing 15 miles in a driving snowstorm, the American force prepared to attack through waist-deep drifts. The company executive officer became a casualty, and Sergeant Funk immediately assumed his duties, forming headquarters soldiers into a combat unit for

an assault in the face of direct artillery shelling and harassing fire from the right flank.

(3) Under his skillful and courageous leadership, this miscellaneous group and the Third Platoon attacked 15 houses, cleared them and took 30 prisoners without suffering a casualty.

(4) Sergeant Funk's bold action and heroic disregard for his own safety were directly responsible for the recapture of a vastly superior enemy force which if allowed to remain free could have taken the widespread units of Company C by surprise and endangered the entire attack plan.

(5) For his heroic efforts Sergeant Funk received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman at the White House.

(b) Designation.—The Mon/Fayette Expressway interchange connecting to Commonwealth Avenue and State Route 837 in the City of Duquesne is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the First Sergeant Leonard Funk, Jr., Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

### Section 3. Captain Michael John Estocin Interchange.

(a) Findings.—

(1) Born April 27, 1931, in Turtle Creek, Captain Estocin graduated from the State Teachers College, Slippery Rock, and entered the naval service as an aviation cadet in June 1954.

(2) Captain Estocin, leading a three-plane group of aircraft in support of a coordinated strike against two thermal power plants in Haiphong, North Vietnam, on April 20, 1967, provided continuous warnings to the strike group leaders of the surface-to-air threats and personally neutralized three SAM sites.

(3) On April 26, 1967, in the support of a coordinated strike against the vital fuel facilities in Haiphong, he led an attack on a threatening SAM site during which an exploding SAM seriously damaged his aircraft. Nevertheless, he regained control of his burning aircraft and courageously launched his strike missiles before departing the area.

(4) Captain Michael John Estocin is the only Navy jet pilot to receive the Medal of Honor for a combat role. While the Medal of Honor was not normally given for a combination of missions, an exception was made for this very intense two-day strike mission, and, according to those who flew with Estocin, the honor was well-deserved.

(b) Designation authorized.—The Mon/Fayette Expressway interchange with East Pittsburgh-McKeesport Boulevard in North Versailles is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the Captain Michael John Estocin Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

**Section 4. Captain James A. Graham Interchange.**

(a) Findings.—

(1) On June 2, 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam, Captain James A. Graham, Wilksburg, displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

(2) As the leader of 2nd Platoon of Company F, Captain Graham was leading his platoon across a paddy area 1,000 meters wide when it came under fire from mortars and small arms that immediately inflicted a large number of casualties.

(3) Forming an assault unit, Captain Graham assaulted one machine gun nest, relieving pressure on his platoon, allowing the wounded to be evacuated. Despite being twice wounded, Captain Graham accounted for 15 enemy kills.

(4) With the enemy position remaining invincible, Captain Graham chose to remain at the side of a wounded comrade rather than withdraw. Captain Graham died while protecting himself and the wounded man he chose not to abandon.

(5) Captain Graham's outstanding courage, superb leadership and indomitable fighting spirit undoubtedly saved the 2nd Platoon from annihilation and reflected great credit upon himself, the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

(b) Designation authorized.—The interchange with I-376 in Monroeville is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the Captain James A. Graham Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

**Section 5. Lance Corporal William R. Prom Interchange.**

(a) Findings.—

(1) On February 9, 1969, near An Hoa, Republic of Vietnam, while returning from a reconnaissance operation during Operation Taylor Common, two platoons of Company One came under an intense automatic weapons fire and grenade attack.

(2) Lance Corporal Prom immediately assumed control of one of his machine guns and began to deliver return fire, disregarding his own safety.

(3) Realizing that the enemy would have to be destroyed before the injured marines could be evacuated, Lance Corporal Prom moved forward and delivered a heavy volume of fire, permitting his men to regroup and resume their march.

(4) Shortly thereafter the platoon again came under heavy fire in which one man was critically wounded. Reacting instantly, Lance Corporal Prom moved forward to protect his injured comrade.

(5) Unable to continue his fire because of his severe wounds, he continued to advance to within a few yards of the enemy positions. There, standing in full view of the enemy, he directed the fire of his support elements until he was mortally wounded. Inspired by his heroic actions, the marines launched an assault that destroyed the enemy.

(6) Lance Corporal Prom's indomitable courage, inspiring initiative and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service.

(b) Designation authorized.—The half interchange, including only westbound Mon/Fayette to I-376 and eastbound I-376 to Mon/Fayette, in the City of Pittsburgh is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the Lance Corporal William R. Prom Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

#### Section 6. Ensign Henry Clay Drexler Interchange.

(a) Findings.—

(1) Born in Braddock, on August 7, 1901, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1924.

(2) At 3:35 on the afternoon of October 20, 1924, while the USS Trenton was preparing to fire trial installation shots from the two six-inch guns in the forward twin mount of the vessel, two charges of powder ignited, trapping 20 men in the twin mount.

(3) Ensign Drexler, without thought for his own safety, on seeing that the charge of powder for the left gun was ignited, jumped for the right charge and endeavored to put it in the immersion tank. The left charge burst into flames and ignited the right charge before Ensign Drexler could accomplish his purpose. He fell on the spot where he was making a supreme effort to save his shipmates.

(4) Ensign Drexler was awarded the Medal of Honor by a Special Act of Congress on February 3, 1933, one of the few Medals of Honor ever bestowed on an individual not in a combat theater.

(b) Designation.—The Mon/Fayette Expressway interchange with Sixth Street in Braddock is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the Ensign Henry Clay Drexler Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

#### Section 7. Corporal Charles E. Kelly Interchange.

(a) Findings.—

(1) On September 13, 1943, near Altavilla, Italy, Corporal Kelly voluntarily joined a patrol that located and neutralized enemy machine gun positions.

(2) Later Corporal Kelly again voluntarily traversed more than a mile through enemy-held territory to gather information about enemy placements.

(3) The following day Corporal Kelly positioned himself in a storehouse window and rained effective fire on the enemy throughout the day. When the position was about to be overrun, Corporal Kelly voluntarily maintained his position, using mortars to hold the enemy at bay while the remainder of his detachment withdrew.

(4) As the detachment moved out, Corporal Kelly was observed deliberately loading and firing a rocket launcher from the window. He was successful in covering the withdrawal of the unit and later in joining his own organization.

(5) Corporal Kelly's fighting determination and intrepidity in battle exemplify the highest traditions of the United States Armed Forces.

(6) The United States Army Base at Oakdale is named for Kelly, and he is buried in the Highwood Cemetery on Brighton Road in Pittsburgh.

(b) Designation authorized.—The half interchange, including only westbound off and eastbound on movements, with Second Avenue in the City of Pittsburgh is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the Corporal Charles E. Kelly Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

#### Section 8. Staff Sergeant John Minick Interchange.

(a) Findings.—

(1) Staff Sergeant John Minick displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty in action involving combat with the enemy on November 21, 1944.

(2) Staff Sergeant Minick's battalion was halted in its advance by extensive minefields, exposing troops to heavy concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire. Further delay in the advance would result in numerous casualties, and a movement through the minefield was essential.

(3) Voluntarily, Staff Sergeant Minick led four men through hazardous barbed wire and debris, finally making his way through the minefield. When an enemy machine gun opened fire, he signaled his men to take cover, edged his way toward the flank of the weapon and opened fire, killing two and capturing three others.

(4) Moving forward again, he encountered and engaged single-handedly an entire company, killing 20 Germans and capturing 20.

(5) Again moving ahead and spearheading his battalion's advance, he again encountered machine gun fire. Crawling forward, he reached a point from which he knocked the weapon out of action.

(6) While advancing forward a third time under constant enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Minick detonated a land mine and was instantly killed.

(7) Staff Sergeant John Minick was posthumously awarded the last Medal of Honor for World War II.

(b) Designation authorized.—The interchange with Business Route 22 in Wilkins Township, Allegheny County, is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the Staff Sergeant John Minick Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

#### Section 9. Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel Interchange.

(a) Findings.—

(1) On October 2, 1969, in the Kien Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam, Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel, with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life and above and beyond the call of duty, distinguished himself while serving as commander of a medical evacuation helicopter.

(2) Chief Warrant Officer Novosel unhesitatingly maneuvered his helicopter into a heavily fortified and defended enemy training area where a group of wounded Vietnamese soldiers were pinned down by a large enemy force.

(3) On six occasions while flying without gunship or other cover and exposed to intense machine gun fire Chief Warrant Officer Novosel returned to the area in order to extract friendly troops.

(4) Near the end of the mission a wounded soldier was spotted close to an enemy bunker. Fully realizing that he would attract enemy fire, Chief Warrant Officer Novosel attempted and extracted the soldier while being injured himself.

(5) In all, 15 extractions were performed in order to remove wounded personnel. As a direct result of his selfless conduct, the lives of 29 soldiers were saved.

(6) The extraordinary heroism displayed by Chief Warrant Officer Novosel was an inspiration to his comrades in arms and reflects great credit on him, his unit and the United States Army.

(b) Designation authorized.—The half interchange with access road connecting to Thompson Run Road in Penn Hills Township, including only the northbound off and southbound on movements, is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

**Section 10. Private First Class John “Jack” Kelly Interchange.**

**(a) Findings.—**

(1) “Jack” Kelly was born July 8, 1928, and graduated from Homestead High School in 1947. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after the start of the Korean War and served with Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced).

(2) On May 28, 1952, in Korea, PFC Kelly showed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving as a radio operator in action against enemy aggressor forces.

(3) With his platoon pinned down by a numerically superior enemy force employing intense mortar, artillery and small-arms and grenade fire, PFC Kelly left his radio in the care of another man and participated in an assault on enemy key positions.

(4) Fearlessly charging forward in the face of a murderous hail of machine gun fire and hand grenades, he initiated a daring attack against a hostile strong point and personally neutralized the position, killing two of the enemy.

(5) Although painfully wounded, PFC Kelly bravely charged a machine gun bunker. Mortally wounded by enemy fire while carrying out this heroic action, PFC Kelly by his great personal valor inspired his comrades to sweep on, overrun and secure the objective.

(6) Private First Class Kelly was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

(b) Designation authorized.—The interchange with Second Avenue at the north end of the Glenwood Bridge in the City of Pittsburgh is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the Private First Class John “Jack” Kelly Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

**Section 11. Private Franklin J. Phillips Interchange.**

**(a) Findings.—**

(1) Franklin Phillips enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on May 19, 1899, and was assigned to the Battleship Oregon, which was transporting marines to the Boxer Rebellion in Peking, China.

(2) Phillips’ unit was part of the American Legation Guard that was charged with protecting American citizens in Peking. It was while serving with the detachment ashore that Private Phillips was killed on July 16, 1900, the last day of the uprising.

(3) For distinguished conduct in the presence of the enemy under heavy fire in Peking, China, on July 16, 1900, Franklin Phillips was

awarded the Medal of Honor by John D. Long, Secretary of the Navy, on July 19, 1901.

(b) Designation authorized.—The interchange connecting Camp Hollow Road in West Mifflin and Pittsburgh McKeesport Boulevard (Richland Avenue) in Dravosburg is hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the Private Franklin J. Phillips Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

#### Section 12. Quehanna Highway.

(a) Designation.—The section of State Route 1011 that runs from Route 879 near Karthaus in Clearfield County through the Quehanna Wild Area in Cameron and Elk Counties and ends at State Route 555 at Medix Run in Elk County is designated and shall be known as the Quehanna Highway.

(b) Signs.—The Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain appropriate signs at each end of the section of highway identifying the portion of road described in subsection (a) as the Quehanna Highway.

#### Section 13. Staff Sergeant Karl Gorman Taylor, Sr., Interchange.

##### (a) Findings.—

(1) On December 8, 1968, in the Republic of Vietnam, Staff Sergeant Taylor, while serving at night as a company gunnery sergeant during Operation Meade River, exhibited conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty.

(2) Staff Sergeant Taylor, when informed that the commander of the lead platoon had been mortally wounded, crawled forward to the beleaguered unit through a hail of hostile fire, shouted encouragement and instructions to the men and deployed them to covered positions.

(3) Staff Sergeant Taylor repeatedly maneuvered across an open area to rescue those marines who were too seriously wounded to move themselves.

(4) When confronted with devastating fire, Staff Sergeant Taylor took his grenade launcher and, in full view of the enemy, charged across the open rice paddy toward the machine gun position, firing his weapon as he ran.

(5) Although wounded several times, Staff Sergeant Taylor succeeded in reaching the machine gun bunker and silenced the fire moments before he was mortally wounded.

(6) Directly instrumental in saving the lives of several of his fellow marines, Staff Sergeant Taylor by his indomitable courage, inspiring leadership and selfless dedication upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

(b) Designation authorized.—The interchange, Exit 44, at Route 136 and Dry Run Road in Washington County is hereby designated and shall



hereafter be known as the Staff Sergeant Karl Gorman Taylor, Sr., Interchange in recognition of the Medal of Honor recipient.

(c) Signs.—The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall erect appropriate signs at the interchange displaying the designation under subsection (b).

Section 14. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 9th day of December, A.D. 2002.

MARK S. SCHWEIKER