

No. 2007-58

AN ACT

SB 779

Designating a portion of State Route 462 in Lancaster County as the Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Robert D. Lapp, Jr., Memorial Highway.

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

Section 1. Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Robert D. Lapp, Jr., Memorial Highway.

(a) Declaration of policy.—The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) Robert D. Lapp, Jr., was born September 27, 1942, in Washington, D.C., graduated from Reading High School in 1960 and enlisted in the Navy. He served for three years, including 27 months in Japan, until he was honorably discharged on September 19, 1963.

(2) Trooper Lapp enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in September 1964.

(3) Following graduation from the academy, Trooper Lapp was assigned to Troop A in western Pennsylvania, where he served in the patrol unit at Indiana, Somerset, Pittsburgh and Greensburg.

(4) In March of 1968, he was transferred to Troop J in Lancaster County, where he served briefly in the patrol unit and then as a Criminal Investigator.

(5) Trooper Lapp served this Commonwealth with bravery and distinction until his death on October 16, 1972, after being shot while attempting to apprehend an escaped prisoner from New Jersey who was serving a life sentence for the murder of three individuals ten years earlier.

(6) On Friday, October 13, 1972, Trooper Lapp had worked a double shift investigating an armed bank robbery in Lancaster, which the prisoner was suspected of committing. Trooper Lapp was at home and off duty when information was developed as to where the prisoner might be hiding out. Members of the Troop J Lancaster Criminal Investigation Unit stopped at Trooper Lapp's home on their way to the suspect's location to request assistance from Trooper Lapp. Trooper Lapp did not hesitate to answer the call of duty. He grabbed his gun and vest and proceeded to the scene. Trooper Lapp voluntarily led the way into the apartment, as he was the only officer with a protective vest.

(7) At 30 years of age, Trooper Lapp, an eight-year veteran of the Pennsylvania State Police, was the 68th member of the Pennsylvania State Police to be killed in the line of duty.

(8) Trooper Lapp left behind a wife and three children, six, four and three years of age.

(9) A eulogy by Father John Travers of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church described Trooper Lapp as “more than an exceptional law officer. He was a loyal and trusted friend. His fellow officers knew him as an unselfish man, always dependable to the point of sacrificing his own desires and interests when they needed his help, a humble man who, though gifted physically with strength and natural athletic ability, never bragged of his talents or tried to dominate others; a man with inner toughness and a competitive desire to excel, but never at the expense of honesty or fair play; a good natured, kind and gentle man who always was pleasant to work and relax with.”

(b) Designation.—The portion of State Route 462 in Lancaster Township from the Lancaster City line on the west to the Conestoga River on the east, Lancaster County, is designated the Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Robert D. Lapp, Jr., Memorial Highway.

(c) Signs.—The Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain appropriate signs displaying the name of the highway to traffic in both directions.

Section 2. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 4th day of October, A.D. 2007.

EDWARD G. RENDELL