

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1144 Session of  
2024

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, APRIL 5, 2024

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, APRIL 5, 2024

AN ACT

1 Designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8404, on that  
2 portion of Pennsylvania Route 56 over the Stony Creek River,  
3 City of Johnstown, Cambria County, as the PFC Dr. Alex W.  
4 Barber Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. PFC Dr. Alex W. Barber Memorial Bridge.

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

10 (1) Private First Class Dr. Alex W. Barber was born  
11 February 23, 1922, in Johnstown.

12 (2) PFC Barber grew up in Prospect, while attending  
13 Johnstown Elementary, Middle and High School.

14 (3) On June 3, 1943, PFC Barber enlisted in the United  
15 States Army in Altoona.

16 (4) PFC Barber was a member of Darby's Rangers and  
17 landed on Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944.

18 (5) PFC Barber landed with his medical unit on the coast  
19 of France at a time when the beach was under heavy enemy

1 rifle, machine gun and artillery fire.

2 (6) PFC Barber saved one soldier's life by performing a  
3 tracheotomy with a mere ball-point pen.

4 (7) PFC Barber communicated despite a language barrier  
5 and a time constraint, asking permission to borrow a horse  
6 and buggy from a Frenchman to move and care for the wounded.

7 (8) PFC Barber was wounded while administering care to  
8 fellow soldiers.

9 (9) Shrapnel from these wounds remained lodged in his  
10 head and leg for the rest of his life.

11 (10) For his heroic actions, PFC Barber was awarded the  
12 Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star and the Purple  
13 Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters.

14 (11) After his military service, PFC Barber graduated  
15 from Johns Hopkins University. Upon finishing his degree at  
16 Johns Hopkins University, he pursued another academic degree  
17 at the Baltimore Chiropractic College, where he earned a  
18 doctor of chiropractic degree.

19 (12) PFC Barber was a practicing chiropractor in  
20 Johnstown, Pennsylvania; Havre de Grace, Maryland; Frederick,  
21 Maryland; and Santa Monica, California.

22 (13) PFC Barber was the father of five children, Alexis,  
23 Joseph, Alexander, Judith and RoseAnn.

24 (14) PFC Barber died October 14, 1986.

25 (15) PFC Barber is buried at Arlington National Cemetery  
26 in Arlington, Virginia.

27 (b) Designation.--The bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8404,  
28 carrying Pennsylvania Route 56 over the Stony Creek River in the  
29 City of Johnstown, Cambria County, is designated as the PFC Dr.  
30 Alex W. Barber Memorial Bridge.

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

4 Section 2. Effective date.

5       This act shall take effect in 60 days.