

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 349 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA AND RAVENSTAHL, JANUARY 24, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 24, 2013

AN ACT

1 Designating the bridge located over Washington's Landing and the
 2 Allegheny River, commonly known as the 31st Street Bridge, in
 3 the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, as the William
 4 Raymond Prom Memorial Bridge.

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

7 Section 1. William Raymond Prom Memorial Bridge.

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

10 (1) William Raymond Prom (Billy) was born November 17th,
 11 1948, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to parents Finbola Prom
 12 and Fred Charles Prom. He grew up with his brother, Fred
 13 Charles Prom, Jr., and sister, Clara Prom, in Reserve
 14 Township and attended Mt. Troy Public School and Millvale
 15 High School. Billy was affectionately known by so many
 16 throughout his life as Butch.

17 (2) William Prom enlisted in the United States Marine
 18 Corps Reserve on December 8, 1967, and was discharged to
 19 enlist in the regular Marine Corps on December 27, 1967.

1 William Prom started his tour of duty in the Vietnam War on
2 Thursday, June 13, 1968, at 20 years of age. Upon completion
3 of recruit training with the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion,
4 Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island in South
5 Carolina, he was promoted to private first class on March 1,
6 1968. He was transferred to the Marine Corps Base at Camp
7 Lejeune in North Carolina and underwent individual combat
8 training with the 2nd Infantry Training Regiment and Weapons
9 Special Training with the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry
10 Training Regiment.

11 (3) In June 1968, William Prom arrived in the Republic
12 of Vietnam where he served consecutively as ammunition man,
13 assistant gunner, machine gun team leader and machine gun
14 squad leader with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd
15 Marine Division. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on
16 September 1, 1968.

17 (4) While participating in Operation Taylor Common,
18 during a reconnaissance in-force operation southwest of An
19 Hoa on February 9, 1969, William Prom was returning from the
20 operation along with two platoons when Company I came under
21 an intense automatic weapons fire and grenade attack from a
22 well-concealed North Vietnamese Army force in fortified
23 positions. The leading element of the platoon was isolated
24 and several marines were wounded. Lance Corporal Prom
25 immediately assumed control of one of his machine guns and
26 began to deliver return fire. Disregarding his safety he
27 advanced to a position from which he could more effectively
28 deliver covering fire while first aid was being administered
29 to the wounded men. Realizing that the enemy would have to be
30 destroyed before the injured marines could be evacuated,

1 Lance Corporal Prom again moved forward and delivered a heavy
2 volume of fire with such accuracy that he was instrumental in
3 overpowering the enemy, thus permitting his men to regroup
4 and resume their march. Shortly thereafter, the platoon again
5 came under fire in which a marine was critically wounded.
6 Reacting instantly, Lance Corporal Prom moved forward to
7 protect his injured comrade. Unable to continue his fire
8 because of his own severe wounds, he continued to advance to
9 within a few yards of the enemy positions. There, standing in
10 full view of the enemy, he accurately directed the fire of
11 his support elements until he was mortally wounded. Inspired
12 by his heroic actions the marines launched an assault that
13 destroyed the enemy. Lance Corporal Prom's unconquerable
14 courage, inspiring initiative and selfless devotion to duty
15 upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the
16 naval service of the United States. He gallantly gave his
17 life for his country.

18 (5) Thanks to his exemplary service he was awarded the
19 Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, the National Defense
20 Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of
21 Vietnam Campaign Medal.

22 (b) Designation.--The bridge located over Washington's
23 Landing and the Allegheny River, commonly known as the 31st
24 Street Bridge in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, is
25 hereby designated as the William Raymond Prom 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.