

## CHAPTER 215

**AN ACT** designating the bridge carrying State Highway Route No. 3 over the Passaic River between the Borough of Rutherford and the City of Clifton as the “Chaplain Charles J. Watters Memorial Bridge.”

**WHEREAS**, Chaplain Charles J. Watters, a native of New Jersey who ministered to many parishes in the State, entered active duty as a U.S. Army Chaplain in 1964 and voluntarily served in the Vietnam War; and

**WHEREAS**, On November 19, 1967, Chaplain Watters was killed while helping care for the wounded on the field of battle; and

**WHEREAS**, Chaplain Watters was giving aid to the wounded when he himself was mortally wounded; and

**WHEREAS**, During an engagement in the vicinity of Dak To between U.S. Army forces and a heavily armed enemy battalion, while unarmed and completely exposed to both friendly and enemy fire, Chaplain Watters moved among, as well as in front of advancing troops, giving aid to the wounded, assisting in their evacuation, giving words of encouragement, administering the last rites to the dying, and carrying wounded soldiers to safety; and

**WHEREAS**, With complete disregard for his own safety and ignoring attempts to restrain him, Chaplain Watters entered the battlefield three times in the face of small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire to carry and to assist the injured troopers to safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Satisfied that all of the wounded were inside the battlefield perimeter, he began aiding the medics, applying field bandages to open wounds, obtaining and serving food and water, and giving spiritual strength and comfort; and

**WHEREAS**, Chaplain Watters was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his conspicuous gallantry, unyielding perseverance, and selfless devotion to his comrades on the battlefield in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army; and

**WHEREAS**, The citizens of this State are indebted to the brave men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper that the State of New Jersey recognize and honor the heroic actions of U.S. Army Chaplain Charles J. Watters by designating the bridge carrying State Highway Route No. 3 over the Passaic River between the Borough of Rutherford and the City of Clifton as the “Chaplain Charles J. Watters Memorial Bridge”; now, therefore,

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the bridge carrying State Highway Route No. 3 over the Passaic River between the Borough of Rutherford and the City of Clifton as the “Chaplain Charles J. Watters Memorial Bridge” and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

2. No State or other public funds shall be used for producing or purchasing, or for erecting signs pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation is authorized to receive gifts or grants or other financial aid in any form from any private source for the purpose of funding the costs associated with producing or purchasing, and for erecting signs pursuant to section 1 of this act.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 16, 2010.