

CHAPTER 112

AN ACT designating the bridge over the Shrewsbury River in Monmouth County on State Highway Route No. 36 as the "Captain Joseph Azzolina Memorial Bridge."

WHEREAS, Joseph Azzolina, a resident of Monmouth County, passed away on April 15, 2010 at the age of eighty-four; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Azzolina was born in Newark, New Jersey, joined the Navy in 1944 at age 18, was enrolled in ROTC at Drew University, and later graduated from Holy Cross College; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Azzolina in the course of his Navy career attended both the National and Naval War colleges, and later completed graduate work at New York University in Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Azzolina served his country as a member of the United States Navy and Navy Reserves for forty-two years, including serving in the occupation forces in Europe following World War II and in combat during the Korean War, and during the Beirut Crisis in Lebanon in 1983, before his retirement as Captain, earning in his service career three Meritorious Service Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal, and numerous other awards and honors; and

WHEREAS, Captain Azzolina in civilian life had notable achievements as a businessman, as the founder, president, chairman, and C.E.O. of Food Circus Supermarkets, Inc., known for its generous donations of food to local charities; and

WHEREAS, As a respected resident of Middletown, Monmouth County, Captain Azzolina served in many community and philanthropic capacities with characteristic spirit, enthusiasm, and kindness, while also engaging in the political life of this State, serving as a member of General Assembly from 1965 until becoming a member of the New Jersey Senate from 1972 to 1974, and returning to the General Assembly from 1986 to 1988 and from 1992 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, Captain Azzolina displayed a life-long commitment to community and State service and to the United States Navy, not only serving as a member of the Legislature, and of numerous groups and organizations, but also engaging in tireless efforts to bring the Battleship New Jersey out of retirement, and succeeding in his campaign to open that battleship to the public for tours and inspection on the Camden Waterfront; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper for Captain Azzolina to be remembered by the dedication of a bridge to his memory in his beloved Monmouth County; 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 over the Shrewsbury River in Monmouth County on State Highway Route No. 36 as the "Captain Joseph Azzolina Memorial Bridge."

2. The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to erect appropriate route and directional signs bearing this name.

3. No State or other public funds shall be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive gifts, grants or other financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the Department of Transportation for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act and entering into

agreements related thereto, with such private sources, including but not limited to non-governmental non-profit, educational or charitable entities or institutions. No work shall proceed, and no funding shall be accepted by the Department of Transportation until an agreement has been reached with a responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting and maintaining the signs.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 18, 2011.