

CHAPTER 44

AN ACT designating State Highway Route No. 42 as the “Route 42 Purple Heart Memorial Highway.”

WHEREAS, The Purple Heart is America’s oldest military decoration, established by General George Washington in 1782 to recognize outstanding examples of bravery and sacrifice by the common soldier; and

WHEREAS, State Highway Route No. 42 runs through portions of Camden and Gloucester Counties; and

WHEREAS, The Battle of Gloucester in Camden County and the Battle of Red Bank in Gloucester County were both pivotal to ensuring the freedom of a new nation and the generations of its citizens to come; and

WHEREAS, Both battles were fought by common American troops who, despite being outnumbered, outgunned, and inexperienced as compared to their counterparts, fought with courage and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, The Purple Heart continues to be awarded to extraordinarily brave men and women wounded in military service or given posthumously to the next of kin of those killed in action; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper for the Legislature of the State of New Jersey to honor all recipients of the Purple Heart – past, present, and future – for their bravery, heroic service, and sacrifice to the United States and to the State of New Jersey by designating State Highway Route No. 42 as the “Route 42 Purple Heart Memorial Highway”; now, therefore,

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

1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate State Highway Route No. 42 as the “Route 42 Purple Heart Memorial Highway” and erect appropriate signs bearing this designation and dedication.

2. 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.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 8, 2012.