

CHAPTER 61

AN ACT designating State Highway Route No. 31 as the "Tri-County 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, The victory by General Washington and his courageous troops at the Battle of Trenton was pivotal in ensuring freedom to a new nation and to generations of its citizens to come; and

WHEREAS, State Highway Route No. 31 begins in Trenton at the Monument to the Battle of Trenton and proceeds north through the three counties of Mercer, Hunterdon, and Warren; 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. 31 as the "Tri-County 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. 31 as the "Tri-County 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 October 25, 2012.