

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53**

2 (By Delegates T. Campbell and Canterbury)

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6 Requesting the Division of Highways to name the bridge located in
7 Renick, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, that spans the
8 Greenbrier River on Auto Road, Bridge Number 13-11-0.54, the
9 "Keene Memorial Bridge."

10 WHEREAS, The Keene family was directly responsible for
11 contributing the land for the bridge expansion in the late 1970's.
12 The Keene family members have been Renick and Greenbrier County
13 residents for at least five generations and owners living on the
14 adjacent Renick property since the 1920's. The main resident and
15 long-time landowner began with William Keene, Sr. The subject
16 bridge is located in Renick positioned and connected to a piece of
17 property, also known as the "Keene Farm", "Jonah's Landing" and
18 the "Home Place". The Home Place, or Keene Farm, was sold several
19 years ago under a Jonah Keene trust upon his passing as the last
20 resident and property owner. The current land parcel is officially
21 called "Jonah's Landing", and is an affluent group
22 of estate properties with residents and landowners that include
23 state government leaders and prominent attorneys; and

24 WHEREAS, Jonah Keene, was the most recent of the Keene land

1 owners, and was instrumental in deeding the land for the bridge
2 expansion in the late 1970's for the parcel that connects the
3 existing bridge. The Keene family is survived by William Keene,
4 grandson of William Keene Sr., currently of White Sulphur Springs.
5 The Keene family has a rich history and record of military service
6 to this country that spans three wars and tremendous sacrifice. A
7 chronological record of the Keene family's service consists of
8 those Renick and Greenbrier County residents of the Keene family
9 that have served while also having lived on the property in Renick
10 adjacent to the actual bridge site: Paris Keene of Renick, West
11 Virginia, served in the United States Navy at the rank of F1 during
12 WWI from 1918-1920. He served with the Civil Conservation Corp
13 (CCC) during WWII in West Virginia. He is buried in Renick
14 alongside his wife and not far from the bridge. Jonah W. Keene of
15 Renick, West Virginia, and primary landowner of the bridge property
16 and transition, served in the United States Army at the rank of
17 Tec3 during WWII and from 1941 through October 1945 and was part of
18 the Africa Campaign. He is buried in Renick, West Virginia, not
19 far from the bridge. Edward Harvey Keene, resident of Renick, West
20 Virginia, served in the United States Marines from 1953-1962, and
21 post Korean War and in other services between 1933 and 1971.
22 Harvey W. Keene of Renick, West Virginia, served in the United
23 States Army as a Pfc. from 1943-1945 during WWII. Jerry Keene of
24 Renick, West Virginia, and grandson of William Keene, served in the

1 United States Army for 22 years and served during the Vietnam War.
2 Lynne Keene of Renick, West Virginia, also a grandson of William
3 Keene, served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War from
4 1960-1962; and

5 WHEREAS, The contributions, history and involvement of the
6 Keene family in service to this country, their citizenship and long
7 standing history in Renick and Greenbrier County, together with the
8 involvement with the deed to the land that made the bridge possible
9 are factors demonstrating a family lineage of unwavering service to
10 this country and community involvement and spirit that is deserving
11 of lasting recognition and respect; therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

13 That the Division of Highways is hereby requested to name the
14 bridge located in Renick, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, that
15 spans the Greenbrier River on Auto Road, Bridge Number 13-11-0.54,
16 the "Keene Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

17 *Further Resolved,* That the Division of Highways is requested
18 to have made and be placed, signs identifying the bridge as the
19 "Keene Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

20 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates
21 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the surviving Keene
22 family members and the Secretary of the Department of
23 Transportation.