

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67**

2 (By Delegates Martin and Paxton)

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6 Requesting the Division of Highways to name the bridge located on
7 the new Route 35, crossing Route 34 at Poplar Fork, Putnam
8 County, specifically bridge number 40-35-2.40, the "PFC Roger
9 Lee Byus Memorial Bridge, Killed in Action, Vietnam 1969."

10 WHEREAS, Roger Lee Byus was born on March 23, 1949, the son of
11 Mervin C. Byus, Jr. and Alma Ruth Ball Byus in Winfield, Putnam
12 County, West Virginia and raised and educated in Putnam County. He
13 attended Black Lick School, a one-room elementary school near his
14 home, Hurricane Middle School and Hurricane High School, where he
15 played football. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and riding
16 motorcycles and any activity related to snow. He was employed by
17 C. H. Heist Corporation. He married Judy Elaine Dillon on
18 September 19, 1966. Eight days later she was killed in an
19 automobile accident; and

20 WHEREAS, On March 20, 1969, Roger Lee Byus was inducted into
21 the United States Army along with his two best friends, William
22 Gillespie and Keith Grant and were sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky
23 where he completed his basic and AIT training. He was then sent to
24 Vietnam, arriving there on October 13, 1969, where he became a

1 member of the elite 11th Armored Calvary, Blackhorse Regiment,
2 Second Squadron, E Troop as a gunner. On November 24, 1969, while
3 on a volunteer mission in Phuoc Long, South Vietnam, E Troop
4 encountered enemy forces and called for mortar support. The
5 coordinates were incorrectly sent and E Troop suffered a direct hit
6 injuring PFC Roger Lee Byus who was dead upon arrival at a base
7 hospital; and

8 WHEREAS, PFC Roger Lee Byus made the ultimate sacrifice for his
9 country, during the conflict in Vietnam, earning the Purple Heart,
10 Bronze Star and other medals posthumously; and

11 WHEREAS, The nature of the sacrifice of this brave and
12 courageous son of Putnam County requires us to honor his memory, by
13 ensuring that future generations are aware of his bravery and
14 sacrifice in the cause of freedom; therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

16 That the Legislature hereby requests the Commissioner of the
17 Division of Highways to name bridge number 40-35-2.40, located on
18 the new Route 35, crossing Route 34 at Poplar Fork, Putnam County
19 the "PFC Roger Lee Byus Memorial Bridge, Killed in Action, Vietnam,
20 1969"; and, be it

21 *Further Resolved,* That the Commissioner of the Division of
22 Highways is hereby requested to cause to be fabricated signs to be
23 erected at each entry of said bridge, containing bold and prominent
24 letters proclaiming the bridge to be the "PFC Roger Lee Byus

1 Memorial Bridge, Killed in Action, Vietnam, 1969"; and, be it

2 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates
3 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of
4 Transportation, the Commissioner of the Division of Highways, and
5 the surviving family of PFC Roger Lee Byus.