

65th Halbert



Magazine

Geist = Julius IACURT L

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EDITOR

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Representative Richard A. Geist  
Chairman, House Transportation Committee  
144 Main Capital  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

1-814-946-7218

Re: 65th Infantry Division Memorial Highway

Dear Chairman Geist,

In behalf of the 65th Infantry Division Association, thank you for expediting the honor of allowing a Pennsylvania highway to bear our name. John Giannelli informed me of the role you are playing to add the word "Infantry" to the Senate bill 1171 so the name will read "65th Infantry Division Memorial Highway." The word "Infantry" was inadvertently left off somewhere along the line in our original communication. However, it is part of our official identification and the name under which we fought in WWII.

Again, thanks for your assistance, and please contact me if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

*Stan Sandage*  
Stan K Sandage August 27, 2000

CC: Jim Nolan, Pres.

TC - 11-7-2000  
Julius will follow thru  
& let me know w/in  
a few days  
Te - 11.13.00

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**OFFICE OF DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION**  
**PA House of Representatives -- <http://www.pahouse.com>**  
G-01 South Office Building  
House Box 202229  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2229

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Amy Giancoli Hartman (717) 787-7895**

**- DRAFT -**

**Measure proposed to name Route 65 after 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division**

HARRISBURG, Nov. 22 -- State Rep. Susan Laughlin, D-Beaver/Allegheny, has successfully pushed legislation through the House that would designate state Route 65 as the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Memorial Highway.

The road would be named after the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the last U.S. combat unit sent to fight in Europe during World War II. The infantry division became part of Gen. George Patton's overall command and liberated several concentration camps.

"Pennsylvania has close ties with the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division," said Laughlin. "Although there are members from the association living all across the country, the largest membership, 167, is from the Commonwealth. I think it is quite appropriate for the state to name Route 65 after this infantry division to recognize its brave actions during World War II."

The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was activated on Aug. 16, 1943 at Camp Shelby in Mississippi under the command of Maj. Gen. Stanley E. Reinhart. After arriving in France in 1945, the division relieved the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and saw bitter fighting in numerous battles as they moved throughout Germany and into Austria until meeting up with the Soviet Army in May 1945.

Overall, 233 men of the 65<sup>th</sup> were killed in action, 927 were wounded and 27 of those men died from their wounds.

The division liberated the Herbruck and Ohrdruf concentration camps, and later, several of its members were chosen to serve as military personnel during the Nuremberg War trials.

The designation of Route 65 as the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Memorial Highway recognizes their efforts on behalf of their country.

Route 65 begins in Pittsburgh near Three Rivers Stadium and runs through Laughlin's district before ending at New Castle.

One of the more famous original members of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was Harry Walker, who played pro baseball and later managed the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Laughlin amended S.B. 1412 to include the road designation for the 65<sup>th</sup> infantry. The House unanimously passed the measure on Tuesday, and it was sent ~~to~~ back to the Senate for concurrence. Unfortunately, the measure died when the Senate failed to act on it before adjourning session for the year.

"I am disappointed that the Senate failed to act on this in time, but I intend to re-introduce this road designation next year when we start the new legislative session," Laughlin said.

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