

P.L. 1997, Joint Resolution No. 10, *approved January 19, 1998*  
Senate Joint Resolution No. 17

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** making additional designations to the Korean  
2 War Memorial Highway.  
3  
4 **WHEREAS**, The Korean War represents a difficult period in America's  
5 history and is known as the "Forgotten War," even though in three  
6 years over 54,246 American soldiers died, 103,284 were wounded  
7 in action and 8,177 MIAs are still unaccounted for, and the  
8 viciousness of the fighting is illustrated by the fact that 131  
9 Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded to American  
10 combatants; and  
11 **WHEREAS**, Of the 7,000 Americans taken prisoner during the 37  
12 months of the Korean War, 51% died in prisoner of war camps, the  
13 highest percentage of any modern war; and  
14 **WHEREAS**, After the end of the Korean War, American troops  
15 remained stationed in the demilitarized zone for 36 years until  
16 October 4, 1991, during which time 90 were killed in action and  
17 134 were wounded in action; and even today American troops are  
18 stationed in Korea; and  
19 **WHEREAS**, Joint Resolution No. 3 of 1995, approved April 11, 1995,  
20 designates Interstate Highway Route 287 as the "Korean War  
21 Memorial Highway," with additional designations as the route  
22 passes through Bergen, Passaic and Morris counties in honor of  
23 three Korean War veterans and residents of this State who  
24 distinguished themselves in battle during that war, with Ex POW  
25 and Army Staff Sergeant Walter Bray designated for the Bergen  
26 County portion of the highway, former U.S. Air Force gunner  
27 Clarence "Red" Mosley designated for the Passaic County portion  
28 of the highway, and former Marine Hector Cafferata, Jr. designated  
29 for the Morris County portion of the highway; and  
30 **WHEREAS**, At that time, it was intended that two additional Korean  
31 War veterans and New Jersey residents who also distinguished  
32 themselves in battle, one each for Somerset and Middlesex  
33 counties, would be named at a later date by the Korean War  
34 Veterans of New Jersey, Inc., and who would then propose the  
35 names of these Korean War veterans for consideration by this  
36 Governor and Legislature as additional designations to the highway;  
37 and

1 **WHEREAS**, Captain Joseph Azzolina, U.S. Navy (Ret.), served in  
2 Korea in 1951, as a Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Intelligence Officer  
3 aboard the destroyer USS Toledo, and was a fire control officer for  
4 ship at the Wonsong Harbor battle and later at the Inchon invasion,  
5 covering and pinpointing the fire support for the troops on shore,  
6 and who during the battle of the Han River crossing, directed the  
7 support fire for the besieged 25th Infantry Division where his  
8 pinpoint fire control played a major part in the relief of those in  
9 combat on shore while engaging in a difficult land battle against a  
10 superior number of troops; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Richard F. Lauer, U.S. Army (Ret.)  
12 served in Korea from November 1950 through December 1951 as  
13 an Infantry Platoon Leader and Company Commander, and, for his  
14 extraordinary heroism in military operations against armed enemies,  
15 was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor, and was  
16 decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Valor,  
17 Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Korean Service  
18 Medal; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Captain Azzolina and Colonel Lauer have been proposed  
20 for consideration by the Korean War Veterans of New Jersey, Inc.,  
21 with the intention that each of the five final additional designations  
22 would be represented by a living Korean War veteran from each of  
23 the four services of the U.S. Armed Forces, plus a living Korean  
24 War veteran who is a former prisoner of war, and that all five of  
25 these veterans would be a testament to all of those Korean War  
26 veterans being memorialized, both living and deceased, under this  
27 type of memorial dedication, the first type of memorial dedication  
28 of its kind; and

29 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper to recognize those who  
30 served in the Korean War, and in particular to recognize the service  
31 of Captain Azzolina and Colonel Lauer during that conflict, by  
32 naming the Korean War Memorial Highway (Interstate Highway  
33 Route 287) as the Korean War Memorial Highway/Joseph  
34 Azzolina, Captain, Retired, U.S. Navy, where Route 287 passes  
35 through Somerset County and the Korean War Memorial  
36 Highway/Richard F. Lauer, Lt. Colonel, Retired, U.S. Army, where  
37 Route 287 passes through Middlesex County; now, therefore,  
38

39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
40 *of New Jersey:*

41  
42 1. The Korean War Memorial Highway is designated as the Korean  
43 War Memorial Highway/Joseph Azzolina, Captain, Retired, U.S.  
44 Navy, where Interstate Highway Route 287 passes through Somerset  
45 County and the Korean War Memorial Highway/Richard F. Lauer, Lt.  
46 Colonel, Retired, U.S. Army, where Interstate Highway Route 287

1 passes through Middlesex County.

2

3 2. The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to erect  
4 appropriate signs bearing those names.

5

6 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

7

8

9

#### STATEMENT

10

11 This joint resolution designates the Korean War Memorial Highway  
12 (Interstate Highway Route 287) as the Korean War Memorial  
13 Highway/Joseph Azzolina, Captain, Retired, U.S. Navy, as it passes  
14 through Somerset County and the Korean War Memorial  
15 Highway/Richard F. Lauer, Lt. Colonel, Retired, U.S. Army, as it  
16 passes through Middlesex County. Joint Resolution No. 3 of 1995,  
17 approved April 11, 1995, designates Interstate Highway Route 287 as  
18 the Korean War Memorial Highway with additional designations as the  
19 route passes through Bergen, Passaic and Morris counties in honor of  
20 three Korean War veterans and New Jersey residents who  
21 distinguished themselves during battle, with Ex POW and Army Staff  
22 Sergeant Walter Bray designated for the Bergen County portion of the  
23 highway, former U.S. Air Force gunner Clarence "Red" Mosley  
24 designated for the Passaic County portion of the highway, and former  
25 Marine Hector Cafferata, Jr. designated for the Morris County portion  
26 of the highway.

27 Upon approval of Joint Resolution No. 3 of 1995, it was intended  
28 that two additional Korean War veterans and New Jersey residents  
29 who also distinguished themselves in battle, one each for Somerset and  
30 Middlesex counties, would be named at a later date by the Korean War  
31 Veterans of New Jersey, Inc., and who would then propose these two  
32 names for the additional designations for consideration by the  
33 Governor and Legislature.

34 This joint resolution completes the additional designations for the  
35 "Korean War Memorial Highway" with the addition of Captain  
36 Azzolina and Colonel Lauer who are being proposed for consideration  
37 by the Korean War Veterans of New Jersey, Inc., with the intention  
38 that each of the five final additional designations would be represented  
39 by a living Korean War veteran from each of the four services of the  
40 U.S. Armed Forces, plus a living Korean War veteran who is a former  
41 prisoner of war, and that all five of these veterans would be a  
42 testament to all of those Korean War veterans, both living and  
43 deceased, being memorialized under this type of memorial dedication,  
44 the first type of memorial dedication of its kind.

45 The resolution authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to  
46 erect appropriate signs bearing the names of Captain Azzolina and

1 Colonel Lauer in recognition of their service in the Korean War.

2

3

4

5

6 Makes additional designations to Korean War Memorial Highway

7 (Interstate Highway Route 287) as it passes through Somerset and

8 Middlesex counties.