



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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January 8, 2026

Testimony of Rep. Allison Hepler presenting
LD 2027, Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Woolwich the Woolwich Veterans Memorial Bridge
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Good morning, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Transportation Committee. I am Allison Hepler and I represent the towns of Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, West Bath and Woolwich. I am here today to present **LD 2027, Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Woolwich the Woolwich Veterans Memorial Bridge**.

If you traveled on Route 1 through Woolwich at any time in the last four years, you would be familiar with what we now call the "Station 46" bridge, crossing the railroad tracks about 15 to 35 feet above grade just north of the Taste of Maine Restaurant. If you're a resident of Woolwich, you're very familiar with it. Update: It's finished, Maine Department of Transportation and Woolwich contractor Reed and Reed did a fantastic job, finishing early and working through the challenging January 2024 storms.

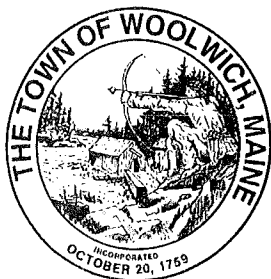
LD 2027 references "Bridge 3039 on Main Street in the Town of Woolwich," which was built in 1933. Prior to that, Route 1 crossed the railroad tracks at grade. According to MDOT, the Annual Average Daily Traffic on the bridge in 2019 was nearly 19,000 vehicles. Many people cross this bridge, so it seems an appropriate venue to recognize the men and women from Woolwich who have served our nation.

Woolwich honors its veterans in many ways. The Town hosts an annual Veterans Day Service in our historic Nequasset Meetinghouse every year on November 11. The Town also participates in a townwide Memorial Day commemoration. One of our local cemeteries, Laurel Grove, raised a monument to remember veterans who served in American wars. On Route 1 near the Sagadahoc Bridge, the Town dedicated Tanner Square in 1950, which contains a monument to the men and women who served in World War II. It was named for Woolwich resident Pfc. Richard Tanner, a paratrooper killed in action in France on July 4, 1944.

In addition, our community is very fortunate to have two veterans organizations, the Smith-Tobey American Legion Post 21 in Bath, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7738 based in Phippsburg. Both organizations and their members are active in the community, from hosting local suppers and providing space for local scouting troop meetings to sponsoring an annual Toys for Tots campaign. The mission of Smith-Tobey is, "To help fellow veterans navigate the

challenges of life after service, to advocate for their rights, and to ensure that the sacrifices of our fallen heroes are never forgotten.” Individual members are also involved with Honor Flight Maine. Woolwich Korean War veteran Bob Meade is a one-man committee dedicated to ensuring the care of Tanner Square. Their actions and involvement matter.

The idea for this bridge renaming comes from a constituent and it has the unanimous support of the Woolwich Selectboard. Names matter. I’m honored to advocate for this change and this recognition. Thanks for your time and I’m happy to answer any questions you have.



Town of Woolwich

Office of Selectmen

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5 January 2026

Senator Tim Nangle
Representative Lydia Crafts
Chairs of the Transportation Committee

Dear Sen. Nangle and Rep. Crafts, and members of the Transportation Committee,

This is to inform you that we, the Woolwich Selectboard, discussed and voted unanimously in favor of renaming the Station 46 Bridge on Route 1 in Woolwich the "Woolwich Veterans Memorial Bridge." We did this at a selectboard meeting on September 3, 2025.

Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
Woolwich Selectboard

David King, Chair

Jason Shaw, Vice chair

Dale Chadbourne

Thomas Davis

Allison Hepler

