



SPONSOR: Rep. Ramone & Sen. Mantzavinos

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 390

AN ACT TO NAME THE HILL ON THE EAST BANK OF MILL CREEK LOCATED ON NEW CASTLE PARCEL NUMBER 08-025-00-018 AS "LIEUTENANT MCMICHAEL'S HILL OF EMINENCE".

1           WHEREAS, on September 8, 1777, General George Washington and his Continentals were pursuing 16,000  
2 British and Hessian forces who were marching from the area of Cooch's Bridge towards Philadelphia to seize the colonial  
3 capital; and

4           WHEREAS, General Washington's force of 11,000 continental soldiers were positioned along the east banks of  
5 the Red Clay Creek west of Newport expecting the British to march towards his position and give battle; and

6           WHEREAS, on that day the British did not advance to General Washington's position as expected; and

7           WHEREAS, General Washington needed to find the exact location of the British march so that he could position  
8 his Continental army advantageously for a battle that would end the war in his favor; and

9           WHEREAS, from the position at Red Clay Creek, General Washington ordered George Weedon's brigade to  
10 advance in a northwest direction to find the British; and

11           WHEREAS, General Weedon's brigade marched to a hill along the east banks of Mill Creek in an area known as  
12 Spring Grove from which this position they observed British forces positioned on the next hill located on the opposite side  
13 of Mill Creek where the historic Spring Grove Mill House stands today; and

14           WHEREAS, gunfire was exchanged throughout the night between the two hills separated by Mill Creek; and

15           WHEREAS, this combat event would become known as General Weedon's Foray at Spring Grove; and

16           WHEREAS, on July 20, 2023, Delaware Public Archives placed historical marker number NCC-264 next to the  
17 driveway entrance of the Spring Grove Mill House at 3200 Stoney Batter Road, Wilmington, Delaware commemorating the  
18 location as the "Site of General Weedon's Foray at Spring Grove"; and

19           WHEREAS, Scottish born Lieutenant James McMichael of the 13th Pennsylvania Regiment was a member of  
20 General Weedon's brigade and participated in the foray; and

21           WHEREAS, Lieutenant McMichael kept a personal diary that recorded his experiences during the Revolutionary  
22 War from 1776 to the end of his service in 1788 providing a significant primary source of detailed information for future  
23 generations; and

24 WHEREAS, in his diary Lieutenant McMichael referred to the hill where General Weedon’s brigade engaged in  
25 the foray with the British as “a hill of eminence”; and

26 WHEREAS, the foray was the most impactful combat event that occurred on Delaware soil because it aided  
27 General Washington in making strategical adjustments that enabled his forces to reach Chadds Ford in time to create  
28 defensive positions in preparation for the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, thus preventing the British from seizing  
29 Philadelphia without the strong resistance imposed by the Continental army in the Battle of Brandywine; and

30 WHEREAS, this provided the French with a higher level of confidence in General Washington’s ability to fight  
31 the war leading the French to formally recognize America as a sovereign nation, and France became fully committed to  
32 joining America in the Revolutionary War; and

33 WHEREAS, French support was a significant factor in the United States of America winning the Revolutionary  
34 War; and

35 WHEREAS, on July 4, 2026, the State of Delaware and the United States of America will be celebrating the  
36 Semiquincentennial anniversary of the birth of our nation and identification of significant Revolutionary War events and  
37 locations will enhance the experience for all current citizens and future generations;

38 NOW, THEREFORE:

39 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

40 Section 1. The hill east of Mill Creek situated on New Castle County Parcel number 08-025-00-018 is hereby  
41 named “Lieutenant McMichael’s Hill of Eminence”.

42 Section 2. Where appropriate, maps produced depicting Lieutenant McMichael’s Hill of Eminence will be labeled  
43 as such.

#### SYNOPSIS

This bill names the hill east of Mill Creek situated on New Castle County parcel number 08-025-00-018 as “Lieutenant McMichael’s Hill of Eminence”. This was the site of the action during the Revolutionary War that was the most impactful combat event that occurred on Delaware soil.