

RESOLUTION FOR CHARLIE O. LOVETTE

WHEREAS, Charlie O. Lovette was born on July 20, 1900 in Wilkes County, North Carolina and was the ninth of thirteen children to James Nelson and Lillie Riggs Lovette. Mr. Lovette was a citizen and resident of Wilkes County for his entire life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lovette learned to grow crops from an early age, and from the ages of 14 to 18 he spent his summers farming and worked as a teamster during winter. He also worked for R.J. Reynolds and in the coal mines in West Virginia from 1918 to 1923 during the winters and returned to farming in Wilkes in the growing season; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lovette married Ruth Bumgarner and bought his first truck in 1924 to go into the produce business for himself. He traveled throughout the foothills and mountains of Wilkes buying chickens, eggs, ham and other farm products to sell at markets in Winston-Salem and Charlotte. He and Ruth raised seven children, all of whom worked on their farm located on Pleasant Home Church Road and in the business. His produce business provided a market for local farmers to sell and trade their produce to supplement family farm income. From the early 1930s through World War II, chicken production progressed from barnyard chicken to hot house chickens providing Mr. Lovette and farmers in western Wilkes more chickens to sell; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lovette's trucks delivered live chickens from Wilkes to processing plants in the major cities along the East Coast. At the same time, he continued with his egg and produce business. In 1946, he sold the live chicken business to his oldest son, C. Fred Lovette. He continued to run his smaller farm-raised food produce and trucking business, in which he partnered with J.C. Bumgarner to form Lovette Egg Company. Fred Lovette, with his father's help and support, grew his business into what became Holly Farms Poultry Industries, the largest chicken company in the Mid-Atlantic States. The other six Lovette children followed their oldest brother and all worked in the commercial chicken business; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lovette was instrumental in laying the foundation that grew and integrated poultry farming in Wilkes County through Holly Farms into the largest company in the world during the 1970s with operations in North Carolina, Maryland and Texas. In 1989, Holly Farms was acquired by Tyson Foods and today this chicken business generates more than \$300 million in gross annual revenue, employs 3,300 people and supports 200 family farms in Wilkes County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lovette was a leader in the Millers Creek area and helped secure the new N.C. 16 which links Boone Trail to U.S. 421; and

WHEREAS, the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners desires to honor the life and achievements of Charlie O. Lovette and express the appreciation of this county and its citizens for the service he has rendered for this community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners requested to name N.C. 16 North from the intersection of U.S. 421 to the intersection with Boone Trail in Wilkes County, North Carolina, be named the 'C.O. Lovette Highway' in his honor.

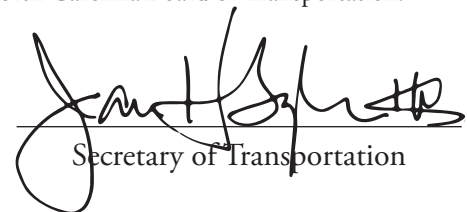
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names N.C. 16 from the intersection of U.S. 421 to the intersection with Boone Trail (SR 1372) in Wilkes County as ***C.O. Lovette Highway***.

That appropriate signs will be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted this the 28th day of June 2018 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.


Chairman


Secretary of Transportation