

RESOLUTION FOR CAPTAIN RICHARD ETHERIDGE

WHEREAS, the Dare County Board of Commissions desires to have the North Carolina Department of Transportation name the new Pea Island Interim Bridge in honor of Captain Richard Etheridge, a remarkable man from Dare County; and

WHEREAS, the story of Captain Etheridge is a compelling one having been born a slave who grew up to serve in the in the Union Army during the Civil War and who would later become the first African-American to command a Life-Saving Station; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Captain Etheridge, the Pea Island Life-Saving Station had a crew that consisted of all African-Americans who were credited with bravely saving lives off the shores of the Outer Banks; and

WHEREAS, Captain Etheridge was highly respected throughout the United States Life-Saving Service for the rigorous life-saving drills that he developed, which earned the Pea Island Station an exemplary reputation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to naming a Coast Guard Cutter in his honor, the United States Coast Guard awarded Captain Etheridge and his crew the Gold Lifesaving Medal for their valiant and brave rescue of those on board the schooner E.S. Newman during a hurricane; and

WHEREAS, the Dare County Board of Commissioners believes that naming the Pea Island Interim Bridge in honor of Captain Etheridge is a fitting tribute to a man who overcame slavery, war, and racism to lead the finest Life-Saving Station in the nation, where he and his African-American crew saved lives at a place that is in close physical proximity to the site of the Pea Island Interim Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Dare County Board of Commissioners hereby formally requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation name the Pea Island Interim Bridge in honor of Captain Etheridge as a lasting tribute to his dedication and service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names the new Pea Island Interim Bridge on NC Highway 12 as the *Captain Richard Etheridge Bridge*.

That appropriate signs will be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted this the 7th day of September 2017 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.


Chairman


Secretary of Transportation