

Approval – Resolution for the Late Charlie “Choo Choo” Justice

Upon a recommendation from the Road Naming Committee a motion was made by Board Member Galyon and seconded by Board Member Thornburg to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice was born May 18, 1924 in the Emma Community of Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice was a legendary football player who twice carried his high school team in Asheville to the national finals; and

WHEREAS, After high school, Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice joined the United States Navy and was a member of the "pro-studded" Brainbridge Navy Training Station squad in Maryland in 1943 and 1944; and

WHEREAS, Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice acquired his nickname when a newspaper writer overheard an officer watching a game say that Justice ran like a runaway choo choo; and

WHEREAS, Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice entered the University of North Carolina in 1946 and spent the next four year romping through opposing backfields. He was twice a runner-up for the prestigious Heisman Trophy and midway through the 1948 season led the Tar Heels to the number one ranking in the nation.

WHEREAS, Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice played for the Washington Redskins of the National Football League from 1950 through 1955 and was honored as one of the team's great players during its 70th anniversary celebration; and

WHEREAS, Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice was the first athlete named to the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame when it opened in 1963; and

WHEREAS, the Cherryville City Council requested the North Carolina Board of Transportation honor Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice who adopted Cherryville as his hometown from 1981 until his death in October 2003.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names N.C. 150 within the town limits of Cherryville the ***Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice Memorial Highway*** for his outstanding service to his community, state and nation.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted, this the fifth day of February 2004 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.