

F/RN 94-9

Resolution for

Dr. Helen Wells

WHEREAS, Dr. Helen Wells is a native of Cherokee County, North Carolina, having been born in Murphy in 1924; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Helen Wells helped her father deliver milk from the family's dairy farm each morning before attending classes at Murphy High School, where she graduated Valedictorian of her class; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Helen Wells received her medical degree from the Bowman Gray School of Medicine and served her internship at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem and Rex Hospital in Raleigh; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Helen Wells began private practice as the first woman doctor in Western North Carolina and in 1964 helped found the first family planning clinic in that part of the state; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Helen Wells spent many long hours serving the citizens of her community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Helen Wells, during her 46 years of practice, delivered approximately 3,500 babies in Cherokee County and the surrounding area, many from three generations of the same family; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Murphy and the Board of Commissioners of Cherokee County adopted resolutions requesting the N.C. Department of Transportation name one of the local bridges on U.S. 19/129 in Murphy for Dr. Wells.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the bridge over Valley River on U.S. 19/129 in Murphy be named the "Dr. Helen Wells Bridge" for her outstanding service and tireless devotion to the citizens of her community and state.

That the North Carolina Department of Transportation erect appropriate signs at a suitable time.

This the fifth day of August 1994.