

**Approval - Resolution for Ed Yates**

Upon the recommendation of the Road Naming Committee, a motion was made by Board Member Halsey, seconded by Board Member Proffitt, to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Ed Yates family has lived in Watauga County since the 1870's with strong ties to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed Yates had a special interest in machinery and enjoyed operating the steam powered shovel, which led him to become a gifted road builder who was highly respected by his peers; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed Yates was also a strong advocate for rural electrification, holding community meetings in his home for neighbors to talk with BREMCO (Blue Ridge Electric Membership Cooperative) officials. He then explained the right of way process and helped get the farmers to sign for the electricity to go across their property; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed Yates advocacy for rural electrification made a critical difference in improving the lives for tens of thousands of Watauga County residents living in rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed Yates was very active in his church. He gave 1/3 of the total amount needed to build the new Bethany Baptist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed Yates was also a very active leader for the improvement of education in the community. He served on a school committee and was instrumental in working with Watauga County Board of Education to close the last two-room school in Watauga County; and

**WHEREAS**, Ed Yates worked with the FHA (Federal Housing Administration) to make programs available to finance military housing and homes for returning veterans and their families after WWII and the Korean War; and

**WHEREAS**, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners request that a 4 mile section of NC 194 in Watauga County be named in honor of Ed Yates for his leadership and commitment to his community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation dedicates the 4 mile section of NC 194 (Mission Crossing Scenic Byway) from Valle Crucis to Hade Smith Road intersection in Watauga County as the ***Ed Yates Highway***.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted, this the tenth day of January 2013 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary of Transportation