

RESOLUTION FOR GEORGE HAMILTON, IV

WHEREAS, George Hamilton IV was born in Winston-Salem and raised in the Moravian Church, graduated from R.J. Reynolds High School and attended UNC Chapel Hill. While a student there he recorded the teen pop ballad, “A Rose and a Baby Ruth” for Chapel Hill’s Colonial Records. The recording became so popular on the radio that it was bought by ABC-Paramount Records for national distribution and radio promotion, becoming ABC-Paramount’s first million selling hit record; and

WHEREAS, George Hamilton, IV was soon invited to move to Washington, D.C. to become a member of the cast of the Jimmy Dean TV Show where he performed regularly with Jimmy Dean and Patsy Cline; he also appeared on Dick Clark’s “American Bandstand,” Arthur Godfrey’s “Talent Scouts,” “The Perry Como Show,” and hosted his own National Television Musical/Variety Shows on both CBS and ABC TV in the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, in 1959 Mr. Hamilton made history by becoming the first “pop” singer to “Go Country”, he moved his family to Nashville, TN where he recorded the country hit “Before This Day Ends” and his signature country (and pop) hit, “Abilene”; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Hamilton and his family moved back to North Carolina and in 1974, he became the first country music performer to go “Behind the Iron Curtain” where he gave a lecture/concert at Moscow University and headlined sold-out concerts in Prague and Czechoslovakia. For all of his international achievements in promoting American Country Music globally, Billboard Magazine gave Mr. Hamilton the title, “The International Ambassador of Country Music”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamilton became a member of the Grand Ole Opry where he performed regularly for 54 years; his final performance there was September 6, 2014; he passed away on September 17, 2014. He recorded over 100 albums during his 58-year music career and throughout his career he always claimed Winston-Salem as his hometown; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Winston-Salem and the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners request to name the U.S. 421/Business 40 Bridge over Salem Avenue and Research Parkway in honor of George Hamilton, IV.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation name the U.S. 421/Business 40 Bridge (#345) over Salem Avenue and Research Parkway as the ***George Hamilton, IV Bridge***.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted, this the eighth day of October 2015 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.


Chairman


Secretary of Transportation