

RESOLUTION FOR COMMISSIONER JIM GRAHAM

WHEREAS, James Allen Graham was born in Cleveland in Rowan County, North Carolina on April 7, 1921, to James Turner and Laura Blanche (Allen) Graham; and

WHEREAS, Jim Graham was reared on a farm in Rowan County and graduated from Cleveland High School in 1938; and

WHEREAS, Jim Graham received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education from North Carolina State University in 1942 and taught Agriculture in Iredell County from 1942 through 1945; and

WHEREAS, Jim Graham spent the next 11 years as Superintendent of the Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs (1946-1952), Manager of the Winston-Salem Fair (1952-1955) and Secretary of the N.C. Hereford Association (1955-1956); and

WHEREAS, In 1956, Jim Graham became General Manager of the State Farmers Market in Raleigh, a position he held for eight years, until his election as North Carolina's Commissioner of Agriculture in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Under Jim Graham's leadership, the Department of Agriculture became well-known for its ability to promote the state's agricultural industry worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Jim Graham is affectionately known as the "Sod Father" because of his caring and concern for the well being of the individual farmer; and

WHEREAS, Jim Graham is a loving father and grandfather and was a devoted husband to his wife Helen; and


WHEREAS, Officials of the town of Cleveland, the cities of Salisbury and Statesville, and Iredell and Rowan counties passed resolutions requesting the N.C. Board of Transportation honor Commissioner Graham.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names U.S. 70 from Statesville in Iredell County to Salisbury in Rowan County the *Jim Graham Highway* for his promotion of the state's agriculture industry and his dedication to the state's farmers, his community and his state.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time and that those signs be moved to the new section of U.S. 70 as soon as it is built.

Adopted, this the third day of February 2000, by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.


Secretary of Transportation