

# RESOLUTION FOR DR. JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

**WHEREAS**, Dr. John Hope Franklin was born on January 2, 1915 to attorney Buck (Charles) Colbert Franklin and Mollie (Parker) Franklin in Rentiesville, Oklahoma; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Franklin graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma and subsequently from Fisk University, a historically black university in Nashville, Tennessee in 1935. Dr. Franklin earned a Master's Degree in 1936 and a Doctorate in History in 1941 from Harvard University; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Franklin's career includes working alongside Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund that led to the United States Supreme Court ruling in 1954 that the legal segregation of black and white children in public schools was unconstitutional, leading to integration of schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Franklin's teaching career began at Fisk University and he went on to teach at St. Augustine's College, the North Carolina College for Negroes, now North Carolina Central University, Howard University, Brooklyn College, University of Chicago and the University of Cambridge; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Franklin was appointed as the James B. Duke Professor of History at Duke University in 1983. In 1985, he took emeritus status from this position. During this same year, he helped to establish the Durham Literacy Center and served on its Board until 2009. Dr. Franklin was also Professor of Legal History at Duke University Law School from 1985 to 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Franklin was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association and the Southern Historical Association; and

**WHEREAS**, the John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture resides at Duke University's David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library and contains his personal and professional papers. The other academic units named after Dr. Franklin at Duke University are the John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies and the Franklin Humanities Institute; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Franklin was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the state's highest honor awarded to persons for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and the local community; and

**WHEREAS**, former United States Transportation Secretary Anthony R. Foxx requested the designation of the Dr. John H. Franklin Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, the Durham City Council requested to designate a portion of Interstate 85, from Cole Mill Road to U.S. 70 Bypass as the Dr. John H. Franklin Highway.

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

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names a portion of Interstate 85, from Cole Mill Road to U.S. 70 Bypass as the *Dr. John H. Franklin Highway*.

That appropriate signs will be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted this the 5th day of October 2017 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary of Transportation