

## RESOLUTION FOR JOSEPH ( JOE) EL-KHOURI

**WHEREAS**, Joseph (Joe) El-Khourri was born in Kour, Batroun, Lebanon in 1924 and during World War II, from 1942-1946, he served in the British Army in the Middle East as an interpreter and intelligence agent; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1949 Joe was asked to come to America as an attorney-in-fact for the estate of an uncle who lived in Minnesota, to represent family members who were still in Lebanon; and

**WHEREAS**, after becoming a United States citizen in 1954, he and his family moved to Andrews to be closer to his wife's family. He became a partner in a clothing business with his in-laws, and in 1965 he bought out his partner and changed the name to Khourri's Family Department Store; and

**WHEREAS**, being an exemplary Catholic and growing up in a poor environment in Lebanon, Joe was kind to all, especially in the department store where many mountain people who had very little were treated with compassion and generosity; and

**WHEREAS**, with there being no Catholic churches close by, the family traveled over twenty miles to St. Williams Catholic Church in Murphy. In 1959 Joe and his wife purchased a piece of land next to their home with the intention of building a new home, but instead donated the land to build the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, which held its first service in 1962. Joe served the church in many ways, on both the local and diocesan levels. He served on numerous committees, both locally and nationally; and

**WHEREAS**, Joe was always active in community affairs, being quickly elected to top positions, such as president and chairman to several committees of the Andrews Lions Club, United Way of Cherokee County and the Andrews Emergency Food Bank. He also contributed countless hours to many other charities and associations; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 22, 2012 Joe passed away, leaving behind a unique legacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners request to honor Joseph (Joe) El-Khourri by naming a bridge in his memory.

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

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names Bridge #92 on Robbinsville Road (SR 1390) in Andrews as the *Joseph El-Khourri Bridge*.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted, this the seventh day of August 2014 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary of Transportation