

Approval – Resolution for Justice Harry C. Martin

Upon a recommendation from the Road Naming Committee, a motion was made by Chairman Collier, which was seconded by Board Member Overholt to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, Harry C. Martin lived in Lenoir county, graduated from the University of Chapel Hill, served in World War II and earned his law degree from Harvard Law School before moving to Buncombe County in 1948 as a private practice attorney;

Whereas, Harry C. Martin was appointed Superior Court Judge in buncombe County by Governor Terry Sanford in 1962, reappointed by Governor Dan K. Moore and elected by the people; and

Whereas, Justice Harry C. Martin was known as an innovator and implemented the “firecracker,” which is the one-day/one-case jury system still in use in Buncombe County and other districts; and

Whereas, Justice Harry C. Martin was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. as an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of North Carolina in 1982 and served until retiring in 1992; and

Whereas, Justice Harry C. Martin returned to private practice until becoming the Chief Circuit Mediator of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from 1994 to 1999, during which time he designed and implemented the appellate mediation program for the Fourth Circuit; and 3727

Whereas, Justice Harry C. Martin was named the chief Justice of the Cherokee Supreme Court of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians in 2000 and supervised the creation of the new Tribal Court System on the Qualla Indian Boundary in Western North Carolina, and established the Cherokee Court as leader among the Indian Nations. When he retired in 2006, he was made an honorary member of the Eastern band of the Cherokee Indians; and

Whereas, the Buncombe County board of Commissioners requested the North Carolina Department of Transportation honor Justice Harry C. Martin for his selfless service and contributions to the community and state.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:

That the North Carolina board of transportation dedicated the bridge Interstate 26 over N.C. 146 (Long Shoals Road) in Buncombe County, as the **Justice Harry C. Martin Bridge**.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted, this the fifth day of January 2012 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.