

Approval – Resolution for the Late Major Raymond H. Wilkins

Upon a recommendation from the Road Naming Committee, a motion was made by Board Member White and seconded by Board Member Burrell to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, Raymond H. Wilkins was born on September 28, 1917 in Protsmonth, Virginia; and

Whereas, Raymond H. Wilkins moved to Columbia in Tyrrell County, North Carolina t the age of two; and

Whereas, Raymond H. Wilkins graduated from Columbia High School and attended the University of North Carolina for two years before enlisting in the United States Army as a private in 1936; and

Whereas, Major Raymond H. Wilkins became a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps on October 31, 1941. He was credited with 284 hours of combat flying on 87 combat missions in the South Pacific during World War II. During this time, he was promoted to major and was awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal; and

Whereas, on November 2, 1943, Major Raymond H. Wilkins was leading a bomber squadron of B-25s against enemy shipping in Simpson Harbor, Rabaul, New Britain Island. His airplane was hit almost immediately, damaging the right wing; and

Whereas, despite the damage, Major Wilkins continued to lead the attack, drawing fire away from the other bombers in his squadron. In this fierce engagement, Major Wilkins destroyed two enemy vessels, and made possible the safe withdrawal of the remaining planes of his squadron, before his plane crashed, killing all aboard; and

Whereas, on April 4, 1944, Major Raymond H. Wilkins was awarded posthumously the Congressional Medal of Honor *for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy*; and

Whereas, the Tyrrell County Board of Commissioners, the Columbia Town Council, several veterans groups and citizens from across the country requested the North Carolina Department of Transportation to honor the late Major Raymond H. Wilkins, and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names U.S. 64 through Tyrrell County the **Major Raymond H. Wilkins Memorial Highway** for his courage and self sacrifice that is an inspiration to the citizens of Tyrrell County, the state of North Carolina and the United States of America.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted, this the sixth day of November 2003 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

Approval – Resolution for Charles “C.H.” Edwards

Upon a recommendation from the Road Naming Committee, a motion was made by Board Member White and seconded by Board Member Burrell to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, Charles “C.H.” Edwards was born in Bertie County; and

Whereas, Charles “C.H.” Edwards served in the United States Navy during World War II; and

Whereas, Charles “C.H.” Edwards was a friend to all citizens regardless of race, religion or political background; and

Whereas, Charles “C.H.” Edwards was committed to protecting the rights and privileges of the everyday, working class citizens of Bertie County; and

Whereas, Charles “C.H.” Edwards diligently served the citizens of Bertie County as a county commissioner for 40 years, 22 years as chairman; and

Whereas, Charles “C.H.” Edwards is believed to have served longer than any other county commissioner in the state’s history; and

Whereas, the Bertie County Commissioners requested the North Carolina Board of Transportation to honor Charles “C.H.” Edwards.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names N.C. 11 from north of the Lewiston-Woodville town limit to the intersection of N.C. 305 the **Charles “C.H.” Edwards Highway** for his outstanding service to the citizens of Bertie County, the state of North Carolina and the United States of America.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted, this the sixth day of November 2003 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.