

Resolution for

F/P 40

Sergeant John Arlin "Bill" Reynolds

WHEREAS, Sergeant John Arlin "Bill" Reynolds was born in Lincoln County on December 2, 1916; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant John Arlin "Bill" Reynolds attended high school in Lincolnton before leaving in the 1930s to join the Civilian Conservation Corps where he became an expert in the use of explosives; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant John Arlin "Bill" Reynolds enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1940 and joined the Ninth Armored Division in July 1942; and

WHEREAS, the Ninth Armored Division was sent to Europe and became part of General George S. Patton's Third Army that defeated the German Army in the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, the German Army retreated over the Rhine River and was ordered to impede the Allied advance by blowing up the Ludendorf Railroad Bridge over the river at Remagen; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1945, Sergeant John Arlin "Bill" Reynolds was one of three American soldiers who braved German sniper and machine-gun fire, and exploding demolition charges to stop the destruction of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, because of this heroic act, 75,000 soldiers as well as tanks and other battle equipment crossed the bridge enabling the U.S. Army to establish a beachhead on the east bank of the Rhine River, an event which is credited with shortening the war; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant John Arlin "Bill" Reynolds received the Distinguished Service Cross for his action and was posthumously awarded the Order of the Purple Heart after being killed by a sniper on April 15, 1945, just over a month after his heroism; and

WHEREAS, the Lincolnton City Council and the Lincoln County Veterans Council requested the North Carolina Department of Transportation to honor Sergeant John Arlin "Bill" Reynolds for his contribution to the preservation of freedom.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation name the bridge on N.C. 27 over U.S. 321 in Lincolnton for Sergeant John Arlin "Bill" Reynolds to honor his courage that saved the lives of thousands of his comrades by shortening World War II.

That the N.C. Department of Transportation erect appropriate signs at a suitable time.

This the third day of February ~~1994~~.

1995