

RESOLUTION FOR DR. THOMAS M. MCNISH

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas M. McNish and his family have long had ties to Macon County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McNish distinguished himself as a pilot in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War by having flown 45 combat missions before being shot down over North Vietnam and being taken prisoner of war in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McNish's internment as a prisoner of war lasted six and one-half years before he was repatriated during Operation Homecoming on March 4, 1973; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McNish's bravery in combat earned him numerous medals including the Silver Star with two oak leaf clusters, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Purple Heart with one oak leaf cluster, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Distinguished Unit Citation, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and the Vietnam Service Medal with fifteen campaign stars; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McNish, having survived his ordeal as a prisoner of war, returned to the United States and completed medical school at Emory University School of medicine in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McNish has had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force as hospital commander, aviation accident investigator and has advanced the science of G-force effects on flight crew members; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McNish's life contributions exemplify the United States Air Force's motto of: "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do"; and

WHEREAS, dedicating a portion of the Wayah Road in Macon County in the vicinity of Dr. McNish's family home place located upon Wayah Road would be a small token of appreciation for a man who has served our nation so admirably; and

WHEREAS, the Macon County Board of Commissioners desires to honor Dr. Thomas M. McNish for his sacrifice, bravery, fortitude, service and dedication to his country and his community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names a section of Wayah Road (SR-1310) from Old Murphy Road (SR-1442) to approximately five miles west as the *Colonel Thomas M McNish MD Highway*.

That appropriate signs will be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted this the 6th day of December 2018 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.


Chairman


Secretary of Transportation