

RESOLUTION FOR W.E. "TOPPER" BATEMAN III

Upon the recommendation of the Road Naming Committee, a motion was made by Board Member Overholt, seconded by Board Member Brown, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, W.E. "Topper" Bateman III was born in Belhaven in 1941 to Washington E. Bateman, Jr. and Effie-Raye Calhoun Bateman; and

WHEREAS, Topper Bateman attended John A. Wilkinson School where he was on the football team, served as co-editor of the school yearbook, and was elected the most talented boy in his senior class; and

WHEREAS, during the summer months, Topper Bateman served as a lifeguard and swimming instructor for the Belhaven Beach at the Charlie Smith Community Center where he taught many local young people how to swim; and

WHEREAS, Topper Bateman was an active member of the Belhaven Boy Scout Troop 80 where he became an Eagle Scout and later served as Scout Master for several years; and

WHEREAS, Topper Bateman was in the first MBA class that graduated from East Carolina University; and

WHEREAS, Topper Bateman took over management for the family business, Bateman Oil Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1973 Topper Bateman expanded into the seafood business by starting Sea Safari, LTD. He then sold the family oil business in 1986 in order to devote all of his time to the seafood business. Sea Safari expanded into one of the largest crab processing operations in the nation and it was Belhaven's largest employer for many years; and

WHEREAS, until his death in 2010, Topper Bateman served his community as a great leader and supporter; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Belhaven hereby wish to honor the memory of Topper Bateman.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names the Bridge #77 over Pantego Creek in Beaufort County as the ***Topper Bateman Bridge***.

That appropriate signs be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted, this the seventh day of November 2013 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.


Chairman


Secretary of Transportation