



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Shannon Valentine
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 786-2701
Fax: (804) 786-2940

Agenda item #3

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

October 20, 2020

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Whitworth, Seconded By: Mr. Rucker

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: “Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge”

WHEREAS, the Page County Board of Supervisors wishes to honor and memorialize the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Emmett Arthur Dougans to his community and Country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dougans, of Luray, Virginia, was born on July 24, 1943 and served five years in the United States Army, 1st Infantry Division, also known as The Big Red One, in both the Vietnam War and on the European front; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dougans entered active duty on October 31, 1960 and decided to make the United States Army his career with his second re-enlistment and distinguished service during combat missions including Operations El Paso I and El Paso II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dougans was the recipient of the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal and the Army Commendation for an April 30, 1966 encounter with the Viet Cong, which says in part, “When his unit became heavily engaged by Viet Cong forces, Dougans completely disregarded his personal safety to pass on attack and maneuver orders. He accompanied his unit as it closed in and destroyed the insurgent force.”; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Arthur Dougans became the first person of Page County to selflessly sacrifice his own life in defense of his country when he was killed in action from small arms fire at the age of 22 on July 9, 1966 while engaging a hostile force at the Battle of Suoi Lap, Mihn Thanh Road at Binh Long Province South Vietnam, and was laid to rest in Hillside Cemetery in Luray, Virginia; and

Resolution of the Board

Bridge Naming: "Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge"

October 20, 2020

Page 2 of 2

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Page County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated August 4, 2020, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Emmett Arthur Dougans, name the bridge on Route 675, Bixler's Ferry Road, over U.S. Highway 211 West, Page County as the "Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge"; and

WHEREAS, Page County, by its August 4, 2020 resolution, has agreed to pay the cost of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming; and

WHEREAS, § 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities named by the CTB and requires that the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining such signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located or by the private entity whose name is attached to the transportation facility so named.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the bridge on Route 675, Bixler's Ferry Road, over U.S. Route 211 West, Page County as the "Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VDOT is directed to produce, place, and maintain the signs calling attention to this naming, and secure payment from Page County for these costs as required by law.

#####

CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: “Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge”

Issue: Commemorative naming of the bridge on Route 675, Bixler’s Ferry Road, over U.S. Route 211 West, Page County as the “Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge”.

Facts: Page County enacted a resolution on August 4, 2020 to honor the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Emmett Arthur Dougans to his community and country. Mr. Dougans, of Luray, Virginia, was born on July 24, 1943 and served five years in the United States Army, 1st Infantry Division, also known as The Big Red One, in both the Vietnam War and on the European front. He entered active duty on October 31, 1960 and decided to make the United States Army his career with his second re-enlistment and distinguished service during combat missions including Operations El Paso I and El Paso II.

Mr. Dougans was the recipient of the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal and the Army Commendation for an April 30, 1966 encounter with the Viet Cong, which says in part, “When his unit became heavily engaged by Viet Cong forces, Dougans completely disregarded his personal safety to pass on attack and maneuver orders. He accompanied his unit as it closed in and destroyed the insurgent force.”

Mr. Dougans wrote his last letter to his sister and said, “I did not want to come to Vietnam...since I see how communism works, I’d rather die than see my family or the United States under communism.”

Emmett Arthur Dougans became the first person of Page County to selflessly sacrifice his own life in defense of his country when he was killed in action from small arms fire at the age of 22 on July 9, 1966 while engaging a hostile force at the Battle of Suoi Lap, Mihn Thanh Road at Binh Long Province South Vietnam. He is laid to rest in Hillside Cemetery in Luray, Virginia.

Recommendations: The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recommends this request be approved.

Action Required by CTB: The *Code of Virginia* requires a majority of the CTB members to approve a resolution naming a highway or bridge, as appropriate. A resolution will be provided for the Board’s consideration.

Result if Approved: The bridge on Route 675, Bixler’s Ferry Road, over U.S. Highway 211 West, Page County will be known as the “Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law and by resolution, Page County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: VDOT is not aware of any opposition to this proposal.



COUNTY OF PAGE

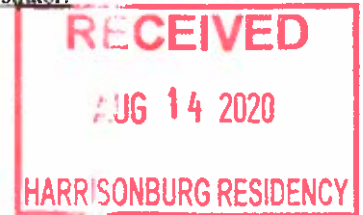
103 South Court Street, Suite F
Luray, Virginia 22835
(540) 743-4142
Fax: (540) 743-4533

Board of Supervisors:

Morgan Phenix – Chairman – At- Large
D. Keith Guzy, Jr. – District 1
Allen Louderback – District 2
Mark Stroupe – District 3
Larry Foltz – District 4
Jeff Vaughan – District 5

County Administrator:

Amity Moler



August 10, 2020

Virginia Department of Transportation
Harrisonburg Residency
Attn: Don Komara
3536 North Valley Pike
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Dear Don:

Please find enclosed a Resolution, as adopted by the Page County Board of Supervisors, requesting that the Commonwealth Transportation Board name the bridge on Route 675, Bixler's Ferry Road, known as Bixler's Ferry Bridge, over U. S. Highway 211 West as the "Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge".

On behalf of the Board, I respectfully request that you forward this to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for their consideration.

Sincerely,

Amity N. Moler
County Administrator

Enclosure



COUNTY OF PAGE

103 South Court Street, Suite F
Luray, Virginia 22835
(540) 743-4142
Fax: (540) 743-4533

Board of Supervisors:
Morgan Phenix – Chairman – At-Large
D. Keith Guzy, Jr. – District 1
Allen Louderback – District 2
Mark Stroupe – District 3
Larry Foltz – District 4
Jeff Vaughan – District 5

County Administrator:
Amity Moler

#2020-14

RESOLUTION FOR BRIDGE NAMING

Naming of the bridge on Route 675, Bixler's Ferry Road, known as Bixler's Ferry Bridge, over U. S. Highway 211 West in Page County as the "Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge"

WHEREAS, Emmett Arthur Dougans of Luray, Virginia, was born on 24 July 1943 and served five years in the U. S. Army, 1st Infantry Division the "The Big Red One" in both the Vietnam War and in Europe; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Arthur Dougans having entered active duty 31 October 1960, at 17 years of age, decided to make the Army his career with his second re-enlistment and distinguished service during combat missions including Operations El Paso I & El Paso II; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Arthur Dougans was the recipient of the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, and the Army Commendation for a 30 April 1966 encounter with the Viet Cong, which says in part, "When his unit became heavily engaged by Viet Cong forces, Dougans completely disregarded his personal safety to pass on attack and maneuver orders. He accompanied his unit as it closed in and destroyed the insurgent force."; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Arthur Dougans was KIA (Killed In Action), at the age of 22, from small arms fire, on 9 July 1966, while engaging a hostile force at the Battle of Suoi Lap, Minh Thanh Road at Binh Long Province South Vietnam and is buried in Hillside Cemetery, Luray, VA; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Arthur Dougans wrote his last letter to his sister and said, "I did not want to come to Vietnam....since I see how communism works, I'd rather die than see my family or the United States under communism"; and

WHEREAS, Emmett Arthur Dougans became the first person of Page County to selflessly sacrifice his own life in defense of his country; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to memorialize the life and sacrifice of Emmett Arthur Dougans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Page County, in accordance with Section 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, does hereby request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board name the bridge on Route 675, Bixler's Ferry Road, over U. S. Highway 211 West in Page County as the "Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Page County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

This Resolution was adopted by the Page County Board of Supervisors on this 4th day of August, 2020.


Morgan Phenix, Chairman


Amity Moler, Clerk

Page County

Bixler's Ferry Rd.

Proposed Bridge Naming "Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge"

675

764

US 340

US 211

US 340

UR 1954

UR 2



CTB MEETING: October 20, 2020

Page County

Proposed Bridge Naming: "Emmett Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge"