



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Commonwealth Transportation Board*

Shannon Valentine  
Chairperson

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*Agenda item #17*

### **RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**June 23, 2021**

#### **MOTION**

**Made By:** Mr. Dodson, **Seconded By:** Mr. Rucker

**Action:** Motion carried, unanimously

#### **Title: Bridge Naming: “William H. Pritchett Memorial Bridge”**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated April 20, 2021, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life and dedicated service William H. Pritchett to his Country and community, name the bridge on U.S. Route 29 Business North, over U.S. Route 29, Pittsylvania County as the “William H. Pritchett Memorial Bridge”; and

**WHEREAS**, Pittsylvania County, by its April 20, 2021 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 U.S. Route 29 Business North, over U.S. Route 29, Pittsylvania County as the “William H. Pritchett 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 Pittsylvania County for these costs as required by law.

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## **CTB Decision Brief**

### Bridge Naming: “William H. Pritchett Memorial Bridge”

**Issue:** Commemorative naming of the bridge on U.S. Route 29 Business North, over U.S. Route 29, Pittsylvania County as the “William H. Pritchett Memorial Bridge”.

**Facts:** Pittsylvania County enacted a resolution on April 20, 2021 to honor the life and service of William H. Pritchett to his country and community. Mr. Pritchett was born in 1927, graduated from Langston High School, went on to attend Danville Community College and earned an Associates Degree in Business from Christian Brothers College in Memphis, TN. He was also married to his wife Lillie for 63 years and they had a son, Cedric.

He honorably served his country for two years as a member of the United States Army and was the District Manager at Universal Life Insurance Company until he retired in 1993.

He began his career with the County in 1992 where he was elected the Board’s first African American representative and the first elected official of the County’s newly formed Banister District which was the County’s first majority minority District. He served with distinction on the Board for 20 years and retired in 2011 having served as the Board’s Chairman in 1996 and Vice-Chairman on seven different occasions.

He tirelessly gave his time and effort on the Finance, Solid Waste, Personnel, Property and Building and many other committees and sub-committees. He served on the Pittsylvania County Social Services Board, the Community Services Board, the Community Action Agency and many other County organizations. He was a longtime member of Bethel Baptist Church where he served as a Sunday School Superintendent for over 40 years and provided inspired leadership as Deacon Board Chair.

Mr. Pritchett died on May 7, 2016 at the age of 88 after a full life of dedication, service and leadership to his community.

**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 U.S. Route 29 Business North, over U.S. Route 29, Pittsylvania County will be named as the “William H. Pritchett Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law and by resolution, Pittsylvania 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.

**PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RESOLUTION # 2021-04-04**

**SUPPORT FOR NAMING THE BUSINESS U.S. 29 NORTH BRIDGE IN BLAIRS,  
VIRGINIA, THE “WILLIAM H. PRITCHETT MEMORIAL BRIDGE”**

**VIRGINIA:** At the Regular Meeting of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) held on April 20, 2021, the following Resolution was presented and adopted:

**WHEREAS,** the Board is committed to recognizing and celebrating Pittsylvania County, Virginia’s (“County”) historical heritage and contributions made thereto by its citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** William H. Pritchett (“Pritchett”), a former Banister resident and a respected County leader and community supporter, was born on September 3, 1927, died at the age of eighty-eight (88) on May 7, 2016; and

**WHEREAS,** Pritchett was married to his wife, Lillie, for sixty-three (63) years and had a son, Cedric; and

**WHEREAS,** Pritchett graduated from Langston High School, attended Danville Community College, and earned an Associate Degree in Business from Christian Brothers College in Memphis, Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS,** Pritchett honorably served his Country as a member of the United States Army for two (2) years; and

**WHEREAS,** Pritchett was the District Manager at Universal Life Insurance Company until he retired in 1993; and

**WHEREAS,** Pritchett began his exemplary career with the County in 1992, when he was elected the Board’s first African American representative, and the first elected official of the County’s newly formed Banister District, the County’s first majority minority District; and

**WHEREAS,** Pritchett served with distinction on the Board for (20) years representing the interest of all the citizens in both the Banister District and the County; and

**WHEREAS,** Pritchett, retired from the Board in 2011, having served as the Board’s Chairman in 1996 and Board Vice-Chairman on seven (7) different occasions; and

**WHEREAS,** Pritchett tirelessly gave his time and effort to improve service to the County on the following Board subcommittees: Finance, Solid Waste, Personnel, Property and Building, Legislative, Computer Telecommunications, Fire and Rescue Policy Board, and the Board/School Board Liaison Committee, and the Joint Sites and Facilities Committee; and

**WHEREAS,** Pritchett also served numerous years on the Pittsylvania County Social Services Board, the Pittsylvania County Community Services Board, the Pittsylvania County

Community Action Agency, the Pittsylvania County Planning Commission, the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facilities Authority Board, and the Danville-Pittsylvania County Small Business Development Center; and

**WHEREAS**, Pritchett also served as a leader in organizing the West Piedmont Work Force Investment Board, and served for over ten (10) years as Chairman of the Local Elected Officials Consortium; and

**WHEREAS**, a longtime member of Bethel Baptist Church, Pritchett served as a Sunday School Superintendent for over forty (40) years and provided inspired leadership as Deacon Board Chair; and

**WHEREAS**, Pritchett was honored for his many contributions to the County on October 29, 2011, at a retirement celebration that drew over two-hundred and fifty (250) attendees and featured speakers from the community who praised his many contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, Pritchett, through his dedication and leadership, also contributed to major developments in County education, economic development, recreation, and community development; and

**WHEREAS**, § 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, authorizes the Commonwealth Transportation Board (“CTB”) to give suitable names to state highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities and change the names of any highways and bridges, interchanges, or other transportation facilities forming a part of the systems of state highways; and

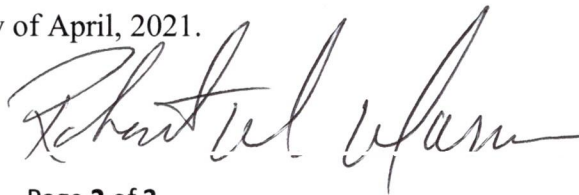
**WHEREAS**, the same Virginia Code Section further provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation (“VDOT”) shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities named by the CTB and requires that the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining such signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board fully and enthusiastically supports the naming of the Business 29 North Bridge in Blairs, Virginia, the location of said bridge depicted in more detail on the map attached hereto and made a part fully hereof, as the “William H. Pritchett Memorial Bridge;” and

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

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Pritchett family, appropriate local VDOT officials, and the CTB for consideration.


Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.







Robert ("Bob") W. Warren (Chairman)  
Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors



David M. Smitherman (Clerk)  
Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors

**Approved as to Form:**



J. Vaden Hunt, Esq.  
Pittsylvania County Attorney

**Vote**

Robert ("Bob") W. Warren, Chairman	<u>Yes</u>
Ronald S. Scearce, Vice Chair	<u>Yes</u>
William V. ("Vic") Ingram	<u>Yes</u>
Joe B. Davis	<u>Yes</u>
Charles H. Miller, Jr.	<u>Yes</u>
Ben L. Farmer	<u>Yes</u>
Tim W. Dudley	<u>Yes</u>

Ayes 7

Nays 0

Abstentions 0

