



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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Agenda item # 1

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

October 25, 2022

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Dodson **Seconded By:** Mr. Byers

Action: Motion carried, unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: “Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr. 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 August 16, 2022, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor the life, sacrifices and outstanding commitment to his community of Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr., name the bridge on Route 685, Chalk Level Road, over U.S. Route 29, Pittsylvania County, as the “Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr. Memorial Bridge”; and

WHEREAS, Pittsylvania County, by letter dated August 23, 2022, has agreed to be responsible for payment of all sign costs billed by the Virginia Department of Transportation calling attention to this naming, which will include the costs to produce, place, and maintain the signs; 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 685, Chalk Level Road, over U.S. Route 29, Pittsylvania County, as the “Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr. Memorial Bridge”.

Resolution of the Board

Bridge Naming: "Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr. Memorial Bridge"

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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: “Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr. Memorial Bridge”

Issue: Commemorative naming of the bridge on Route 685, Chalk Level Road, over U.S. Route 29, Pittsylvania County, as the “Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr. Memorial Bridge”.

Facts: The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors enacted a resolution on August 16, 2022 to honor Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas Sr.’s life, sacrifices and service to his community.

According to that resolution, Deputy Thomas was a Pittsylvania County Deputy who was killed in the line of duty while serving County citizens. On October 8, 1952, while attempting to arrest a man wanted for killing his employer, Deputy Thomas received gunfire from a shotgun to his chest and abdomen.

Surgeons at Danville Memorial Hospital were able to remove most of the pellets but some remained in his abdomen when he was released 2 weeks later. Deputy Thomas never fully recovered and was forced to retire from the Sheriff’s office.

In March 1956, one of the pellets remaining in his abdomen caused an infection and internal bleeding. As a result, Deputy Thomas succumbed to his injuries and passed away after 33 years of service in law enforcement. He was survived by his wife, two sons, two daughters, seven grandchildren and three sisters.

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 685, Chalk Level Road, over U.S. Route 29, Pittsylvania County, will be known as the “Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr. Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law, and by letter dated August 23, 2022, 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
AMENDED RESOLUTION # 2022-07-03**

**SUPPORT FOR NAMING THE ROUTE 685 (CHALK LEVEL ROAD) BRIDGE OVER
US HIGHWAY 29 IN PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, BANISTER DISTRICT,
THE “DEPUTY SHERIFF J. HOLLAND THOMAS, SR., MEMORIAL BRIDGE”**

VIRGINIA: At the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors’ (“Board”) Business Meeting on August 16, 2022, the following Amended Resolution was presented and adopted:

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to recognizing and celebrating the County’s historical heritage and contributions made thereto by its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr., (“Thomas”), was a Pittsylvania County Deputy who was killed in the line of duty while serving County citizens; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 1952, while attempting to arrest a man wanted for killing his employer, who supposedly owed him \$18, Thomas received gunfire from a 12-gauge shotgun blast to his chest and abdomen area; and

WHEREAS, Thomas was taken to Danville Memorial Hospital where he underwent several surgeries to have the pellets removed; and

WHEREAS, doctors were able to remove most of the pellets, but were unable to remove some from the abdomen, and Thomas was released from the hospital two (2) weeks later and returned home; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Thomas never fully recovered and was forced to retire from the Sheriff’s Office; and

WHEREAS, in March 1956, one (1) of the pellets caused an infection and internal bleeding that led to his death; and

WHEREAS, Thomas had been in law enforcement for thirty-three (33) years and was survived by his wife, two (2) sons, two (2) daughters, seven (7) grandchildren, and three (3) sisters; and

WHEREAS, Law Enforcement Officers save countless lives by protecting County and Virginia citizens through rigorous law enforcement and patrolling of State and County roadways; and every day, they brave ever present danger to assist a stranded motorist, to investigate gun, drug, and human trafficking, to stop public corruption, to bring closure to devastated families, and to stop dangerous driving and dangerous individuals; and

WHEREAS, Thomas is an example of the dedication of County Sheriff’s Office, and it’s fitting that the Board remember his ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, § 33.2-213, 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

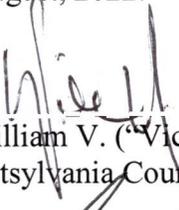
WHEREAS, the same Virginia Code Section further provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation (“VDOT”) shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities named by the CTB.

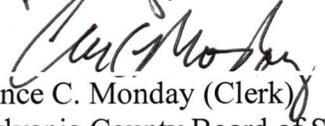
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board fully and enthusiastically supports the naming of the Rt. 685 (Chalk Level Road) bridge over US Highway 29 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Banister District, the location of said bridge depicted in more detail on the map attached hereto and made a part fully hereof, as the “Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr., Memorial Bridge”; and

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

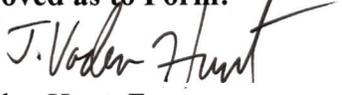
Given under my hand this 16th day of August, 2022.

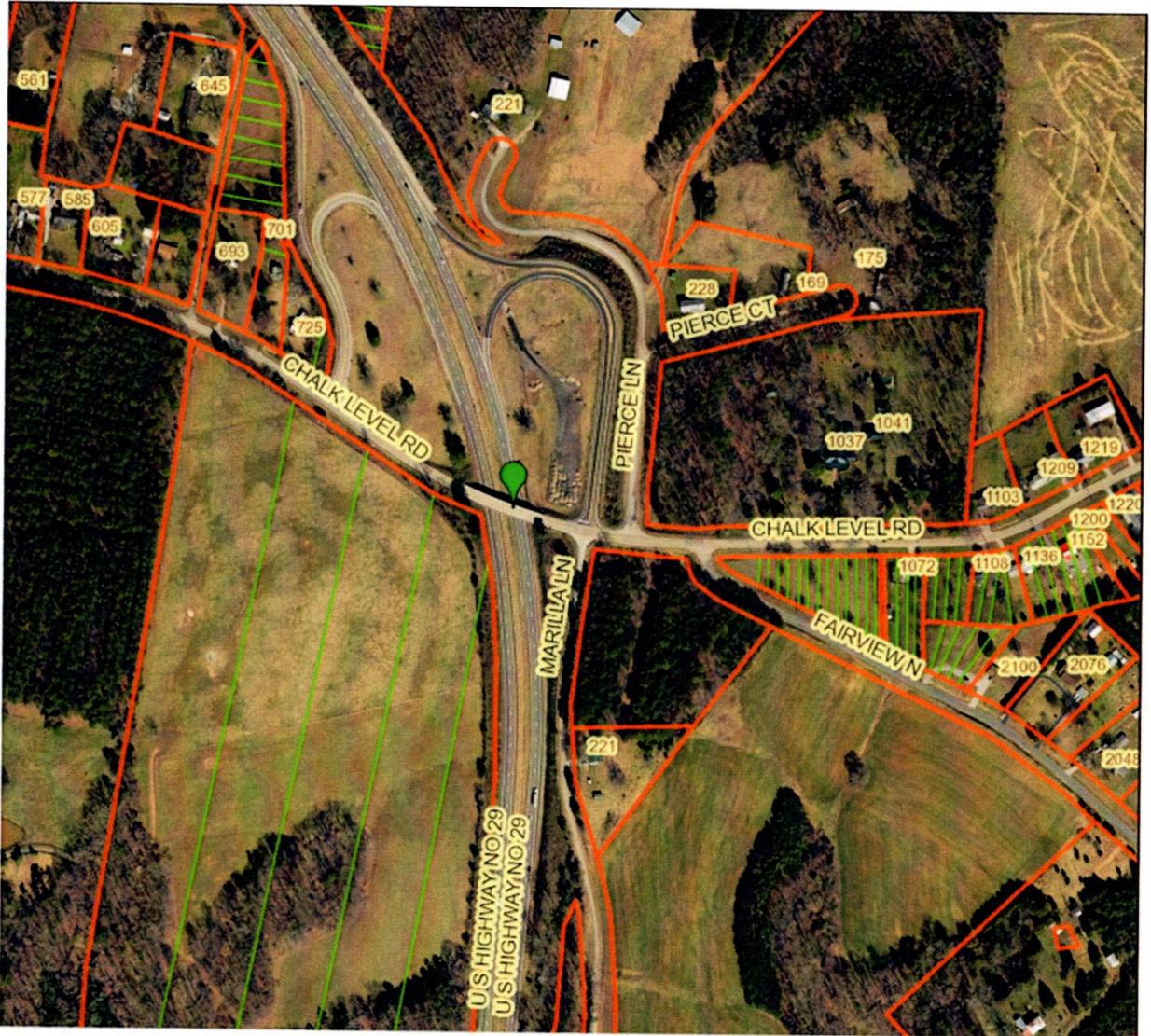



William V. (“Vic”) Ingram (Chairman)
Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors


Clarence C. Monday (Clerk)
Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors

Approved as to Form:


J. Vaden Hunt, Esq.
Pittsylvania County Attorney



August 23, 2022

Jay Craddock
VDOT Assistant Resident Engineer

RE: Resolution # 2022-07-03; Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr., Memorial Bridge

Dear Jay,

The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution # 2022-07-03 in support of naming the Rt. 685 (Chalk Level Road) bridge over US Highway 29 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Banister District, the "Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr., Memorial Bridge".

In error, the Resolution states that VDOT shall place and maintain the appropriate signs for this bridge. Since this bridge is for a County Deputy, those costs are the responsibility of the locality. The County does accept and agrees to pay for the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions or concerns.

Regards,


Clarence C. Monday
Interim County Administrator
Pittsylvania County

Pittsylvania County



685

**Proposed Bridge Naming
"Deputy Sheriff J. Holland
Thomas, Sr. Memorial
Bridge"**



Chalk Level Road



703



Maintenance Division
CTB MEETING: October 26, 2022

Pittsylvania County
Proposed Bridge Naming:
**"Deputy Sheriff J. Holland Thomas, Sr.
Memorial Bridge"**