



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 482-5818
Fax: (804) 786-2940

Agenda item # 2

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

January 16, 2024

MOTION

Made By: Dr. Smoot

Seconded By: Ms. Sellers

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: “Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge”

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Giles County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated October 4, 2023, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of PFC Ronald David “Ronnie” Sparks, United States Army, name the bridge on State Route 61, Park Drive, over Wolf Creek, Giles County as the “Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge”; and

WHEREAS, Giles County, by resolution dated October 4, 2023, 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, the Mayor of the Town of Narrows, in an email dated October 20, 2023, expressed his support, and indicated support from the Narrows Town Council, for this naming; and

WHEREAS, § 33.2-213 provides that 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.

Resolution of the Board

Bridge Naming: "Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge"

January 16, 2024

Page 2 of 2

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the bridge on State Route 61, Park Drive, over Wolf Creek, Giles County, as the "Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge".

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

####

CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: “Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge”

Issue: Commemorative naming, at the request of Giles County, of the bridge on State Route 61, Park Drive, over Wolf Creek, Giles County as the “Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge”.

Facts: The Giles County Board of Supervisors enacted a resolution on October 4, 2023 to honor PFC Ronald David “Ronnie” Sparks’ life, service and ultimate sacrifice to his country and community.

According to that resolution, Ronald D. Sparks was a lifelong resident of Giles County and the Wolf Creek area. He was an All-State Football Player and graduate of Narrows High School in 1966.

PFC Sparks served his county and country by fighting as an Indirect Fire Infantryman in the 1st Cavalry of the United States Army in the Vietnam War.

PFC Ronald David Sparks gave his life on April 6, 1968, while fighting in the Quang Tri Province of Vietnam.

The Mayor of the Town of Narrows, in an email dated October 20, 2023, expressed his support, and indicated support from the Narrows Town Council, for this naming.

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 State Route 61, Park Drive, over Wolf Creek, Giles County, will be known as the “Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law, and by resolution dated October 4, 2023, Giles 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 has not received any public comments on this proposal.

From: [Crandol, Robert P.E. \(VDOT\)](#)
To: [Dunn, Brack \(VDOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Giles Bridge name
Date: Monday, November 27, 2023 9:11:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Rob



Robert W. Crandol, P.E.

Assistant State Maintenance Engineer / Maintenance Division
Virginia Department of Transportation
804-786-5523 (office)
804-840-6104 (mobile)
robert.crandol@VDOT.Virginia.gov

From: Clarke, David, P.E. (VDOT) <David.Clarke@VDOT.Virginia.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Crandol, Robert P.E. (VDOT) <Robert.Crandol@VDOT.Virginia.gov>
Subject: Giles Bridge name

Hey Rob,
Here's an email from the mayor of Narrows.

From: Tom Spangler <tspangler@townofnarrows.org>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 11:56 AM
To: John Lawson <jlawson@gilescounty.org>
Subject: Bridge name

As mayor of the town of Narrows, Va. , I am in full support as is our town manager and town council of naming the bridge crossing Wolf Creek after Ronald Sparks. This bridge is located within the town limits and would be a great way to honor his memory and his service to our country.

**Resolution Naming the Bridge on Route 61, Park Drive, over Wolf Creek in Giles County
as the Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge**

WHEREAS, Ronald D. Sparks was a lifelong resident of Giles County and the Wolf Creek area;
and

WHEREAS, Ronald Sparks was an All-State Football Player and graduate of Narrows High School
in 1966; and

WHEREAS, PFC Sparks served his county and country by fighting as an Indirect Fire Infantryman
in the 1st Calvary of the United States Army in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, PFC Ronald D. Sparks gave his life on April 6, 1968, while fighting in the Quang Tri
Province of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia 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, bridges, interchanges, or
other transportation facilities forming a part of the systems of state highways; and

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation 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 RESOLVED, that Giles County, in accordance with the requirements
of Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia, does hereby request that the Commonwealth
Transportation Board name the bridge on Route 61, Park Drive, over Wolf Creek in Giles County
as the Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge;

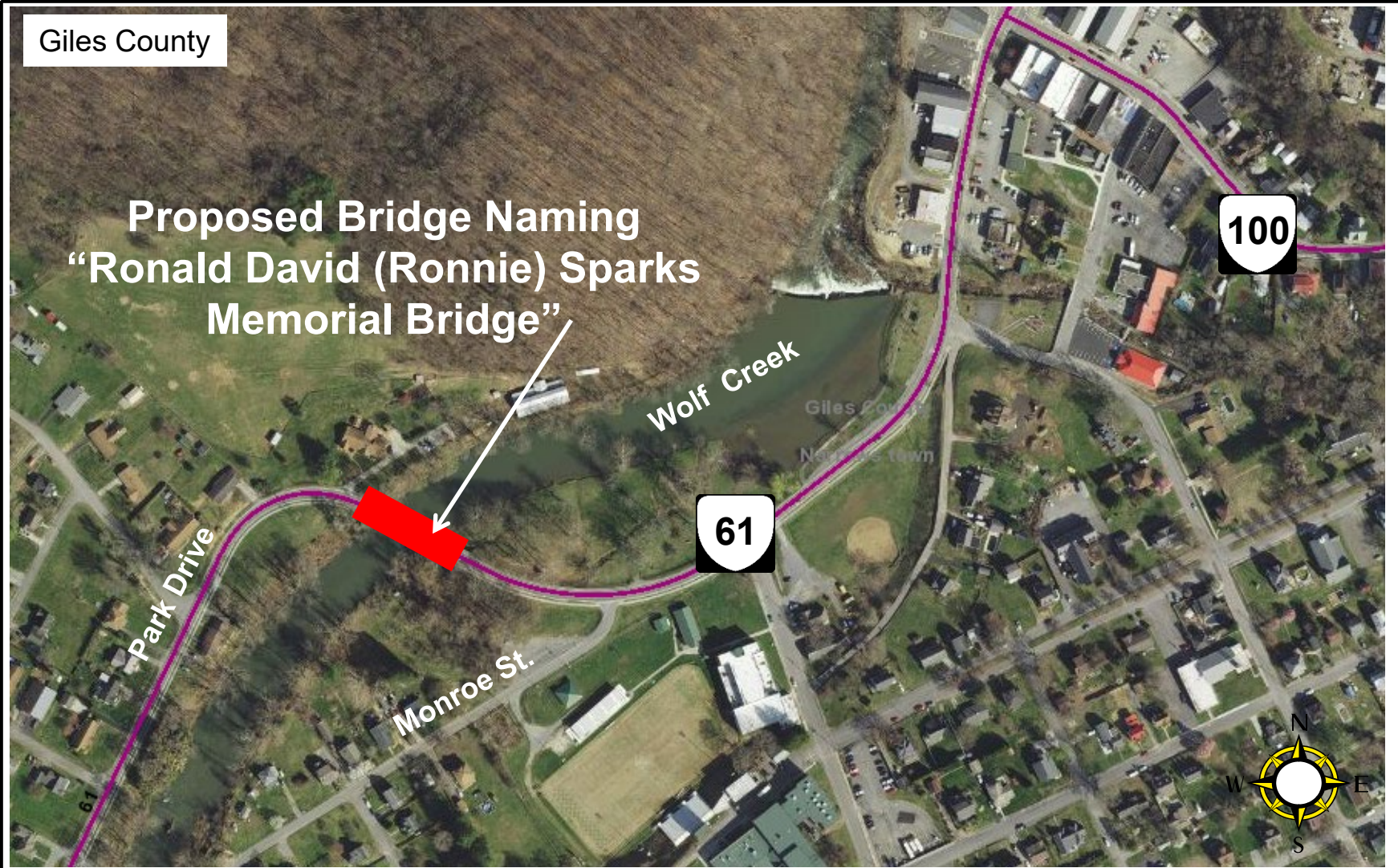
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Giles County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing,
and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Signature 
Jeffrey L. Morris, Chairman

Date 10/4/23

Giles County

Proposed Bridge Naming
"Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks
Memorial Bridge"



Virginia Department of Transportation
Maintenance Division

CTB MEETING: January 16, 2024

Giles County
Proposed Bridge Naming:

**"Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks
Memorial Bridge"**