



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Commonwealth Transportation Board*

Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.  
Chairman

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*Agenda item #1*

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

**September 21, 2016**

**MOTION**

**Made By: Mr. Stinson, Seconded By: Mr. Rosen**  
**Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously**

**Title: "PFC Claude B. Keys Memorial Bridge"**  
**Commemorative Naming of the bridge on Old Route 58,**  
**Dr. Thomas Walker Road, over Martin's Creek, Lee County**

**WHEREAS**, the Lee County Board of Supervisors wants to memorialize the brave service and sacrifice of PFC Claude B. Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Lee County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board, to memorialize the life and sacrifice of PFC Claude B. Keys, name the bridge on Old Route 58, Dr. Thomas Walker Road, over Martin's Creek, Lee County as the "PFC Claude B. Keys Memorial Bridge"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has agreed to reimburse the costs associated with providing and installing the necessary signs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Commonwealth Transportation Board hereby names the bridge on Old Route 58, Dr. Thomas Walker Road, over Martin's Creek, Lee County as the "PFC Claude B. Keys Memorial Bridge"; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Department of Transportation is hereby directed to fabricate and erect appropriate signs and to invoice Lee County for the costs related to this commemorative naming.

####

## CTB Decision Brief

### Bridge Naming: “PFC Claude B. Keys Memorial Bridge”

**Issue:** Commemorative naming of the bridge on Old Route 58, Dr. Thomas Walker Road, over Martin’s Creek, Lee County.

**Facts:** Mr. Claude B. Keys was born in 1915 in Rose Hill, Virginia and attended Rose Hill High School before moving to Tennessee in 1940 for employment and the opportunity to play minor league baseball.

In 1942 he enlisted in the United States Army and completed his military training at Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia. He was assigned to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, 507<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Headquarters Company as a Private First Class.

On June 6, 1944 at 02:44 hours, as part of the Normandy invasion, PFC Keys boarded a C-47 Transport at Fulbeck Airfield, England as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> A.F. – IX Troop Carrier Command, Mission BOST, whose target was the Utah Beach Area, Drop Zone T. PFC Keys was reported Missing in Action as noted by Missing Air Crew Report #42-92415 and was later confirmed Killed in Action on June 6, 1944.

PFC Claude B. Keys was interned in the Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France, Plant H, Row 14, Grave 33.

On July 19, 2016, the Lee County Board of Supervisors, wishing to commemorate the brave service and sacrifice of PFC Claude B. Keys to county and countrymen, passed a resolution requesting the bridge located on Old Route 58, Dr. Thomas Walker Road, over Martin’s Creek, be named the “PFC Claude B. Keys Memorial Bridge”.

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

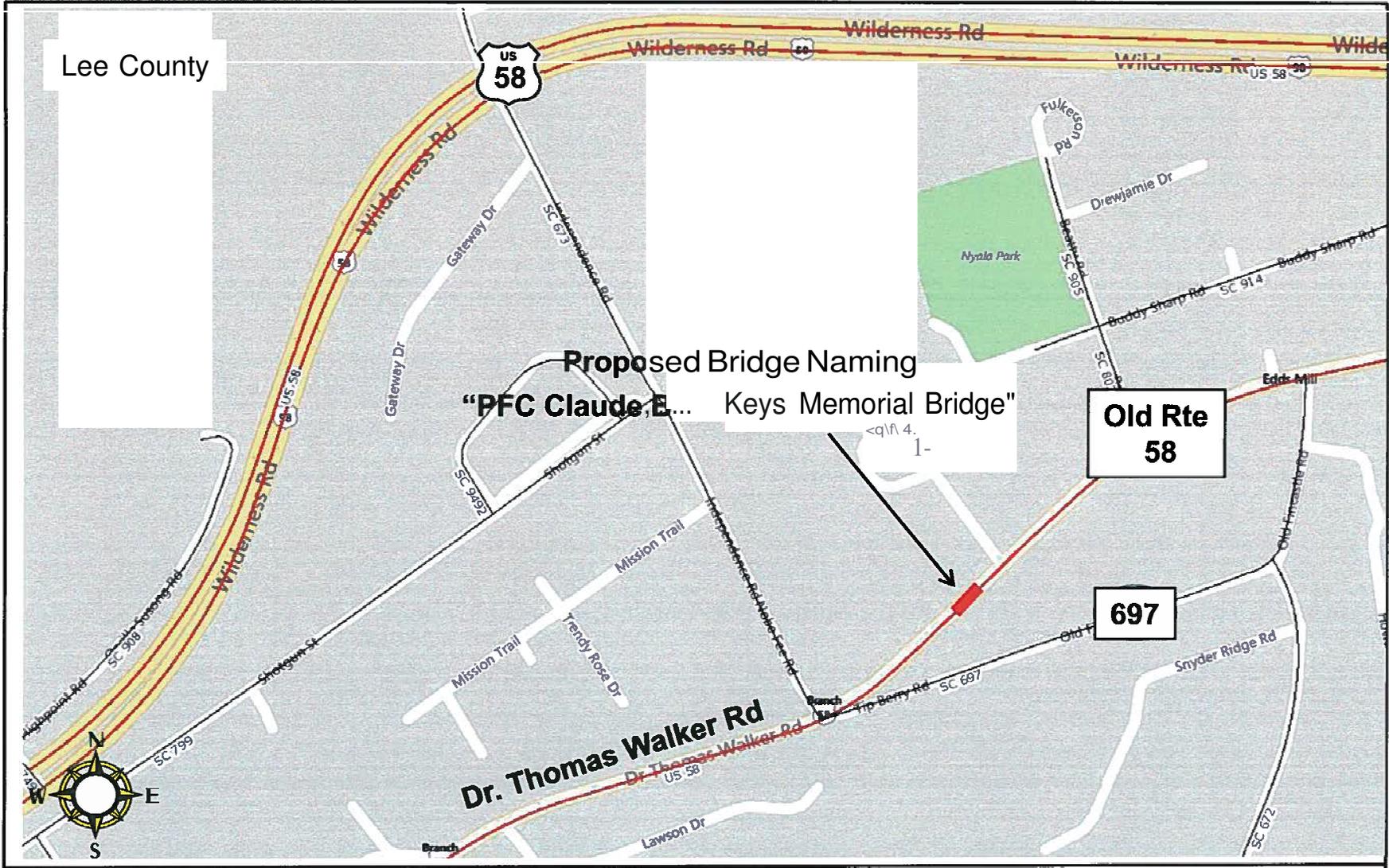
**Action Required by CTB:** The *Code of Virginia* requires a majority of the CTB members to approve a resolution naming the bridge. A resolution will be provided for the Board’s consideration.

**Result if Approved:** The bridge located on Old Route 58, Dr. Thomas Walker Road, over Martin’s Creek, will be known and signed as the “PFC Claude B. Keys Memorial Bridge”.

In accordance with law, the County will reimburse the costs associated with providing and installing the necessary signs and VDOT will invoice accordingly.

**Options:** Approve, Deny, or Defer.

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



CTB Meeting September 21, 2016

Lee County  
 Proposed Bridge Naming:  
 "PFC Claude B. Keys Memorial Bridge"

— Proposed Bridge Naming