



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Agenda item # 4

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

May 14, 2024

MOTION

Made By: Ms. Green **Seconded By:** Mr. Laird

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: “Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt Bridge”

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated March 5, 2024, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt, name the bridge on northbound U.S. Route 29, over Route 626, Lynch Road, Campbell County as the “Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt Bridge”; and

WHEREAS, Campbell County, by resolution dated March 5, 2024, 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 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 northbound U.S. Route 29, over Route 626, Lynch Road, Campbell County, as the “Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt 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 Campbell County for these costs as required by law.

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CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: "Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt Bridge"

Issue: Commemorative naming, at the request of Campbell County, of the bridge on northbound U.S. Route 29, over Route 626, Lynch Road, Campbell County as the "Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt Bridge".

Facts: The Campbell County Board of Supervisors enacted a resolution on March 5, 2024, to honor the life, service, and ultimate sacrifice of Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt to his country and his community.

According to that resolution, Mr. Merritt was a graduate of Altavista High School where he was a star athlete on the football team as well as a member of the track team.

Mr. Merritt was noted for his respectful demeanor, kindness, and generosity.

Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt's young life was cut short on August 17, 1996, when the Air Force C-130H he was aboard struck a mountain range destroying the aircraft and taking the lives of all eight members of the crew.

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 northbound U.S. Route 29, over Route 626, Lynch Road, Campbell County, will be known as the "Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt Bridge". In accordance with law, and by resolution dated March 5, 2024, Campbell 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.

At the regular meeting of the Campbell County Board of Supervisors held on the 5TH day of March 2024 in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room of the Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia, on motion of Supervisor Lawton, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF
SENIOR AIRMAN RICKY L. MERRITT.**

WHEREAS, Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt served his Country until his tragic death on August 17, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt was a graduate of Altavista High School; and

WHEREAS, Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt was a star athlete on the Altavista High School football team as well as a member of the track team; and

WHEREAS, Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt's young life was cut short when the Air Force C-130H he was aboard struck a mountain range destroying the aircraft and taking the lives of all eight members of the crew; and


WHEREAS, Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt was noted for his respectful demeanor, kindness and generosity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt for his service to his country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors authorizes staff to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation and local Virginia delegation to prepare the appropriate resolution and documentation to have the bridge on northbound U. S. Route 29, over Route 626, Lynch Road, in Campbell County dedicated to Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt pursuant to Virginia Code §33.2-213; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its commitment to supporting the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the sign bearing the name of Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt and to taking any other action needed in support of this petition to the Commonwealth.

The vote was: Aye: Brown, Cline, Dowdy, Hardie, Lawton, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: Carwile


CATHERINE H. MOORE
CLERK TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Campbell County

626

US 29

Proposed Bridge Naming
"Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt
Bridge"

Lynch Road

43

Town of
Altavista



Virginia Department of Transportation
Maintenance Division

CTB MEETING: May 14, 2024

Campbell County

Proposed Bridge Naming:

"Senior Airman Ricky L. Merritt Bridge"

