

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 89
By Tidwell

A RESOLUTION to name a certain bridge in Wayne County in honor of the late Ross K. Meredith.

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those outstanding citizens whose selfless efforts have redounded to the great benefit of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, no person could be more deserving of this special honor than Ross K. Meredith, a fine Tennessean who was always willing to help a friend, neighbor, or family member whenever they needed it, often when they did not even ask for it; and

WHEREAS, Ross Meredith truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated and proficient community servant, and he has often exceeded the call of duty to ensure that his community is well served; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Meredith was born in Wayne County, Tennessee on March 23, 1914, as the youngest son of William Walter Meredith; and

WHEREAS, Ross Meredith was an outstanding basketball player at Wayne County High School, where he graduated in 1935; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Ross worked for the Western Electric Company; and

WHEREAS, together with his cousin, Vassar Mitchell, and brother, Guy Meredith, Ross was determined to establish employment for as many young men of Wayne County as possible; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his tireless efforts, two hundred young people were given the opportunity to apply for employment in Tennessee and other states; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Meredith and his family never received any personal gain or monetary reward for their unselfish efforts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Meredith's outstanding reputation with the Western Electric Company enabled many persons to gain employment with the company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Meredith eventually purchased a portion of the former James Ralph Cole farm located on Highway 64 West in Wayne County, adjacent to the Rose Hollow Branch; and

WHEREAS, Ross Meredith is buried with his wife in the James Cole Cemetery, which adjoins Highway 64; and

WHEREAS, a bridge currently spans U.S. Highway 64 and adjoins Rose Hollow Branch on the boundary of Mr. Meredith's farm; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the efforts of this estimable man, many Wayne County residents have been given the opportunity to travel, to earn an above average income, and thereby supply their families with homes, health care, and educational benefits that might have otherwise remained beyond reach; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Wayne County Commission to establish a memorial to this outstanding public servant; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs in this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the bridge on U.S. Highway 64 that spans Rose Hollow Branch in Wayne County is hereby designated as the “Ross K. Meredith Memorial Bridge” as a lasting tribute to this exemplary individual, dedicated friend and neighbor, and remarkable human being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is hereby directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the “Ross K. Meredith Memorial Bridge.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation and that one additional copy be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation, with this final clause omitted from such copies.