

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1076
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge on State Route 135 in Putnam County in honor of Robert Lynn Draper.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary public servants who have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than Robert Lynn Draper, one of Putnam County's finest citizens; and

WHEREAS, Robert Lynn Draper has been a Putnam County resident for his entire 85 happy and productive years on Earth; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong farmer, Mr. Draper raised Angus cattle for many years and has farmed his property on both sides of Howard Draper Road in Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, few people have touched as many lives as Mr. Draper, a gentleman who has continued and enhanced a long-standing family tradition of excellence in public service and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Draper has served Tennessee's farming community with distinction in many capacities; he has been active with the Tennessee Farm Bureau and the Soil Conservation District, and he has served with distinction as a Director of the Putnam County Farmers Co-op; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Draper is a person of impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, and he has worked assiduously to establish a brighter future for his fellow citizens of Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, he has previously served his fellow citizens with probity, dignity and integrity as a Justice of the Peace; and

WHEREAS Mr. and Mrs. Draper evidence their strong Christian faith and worship the Lord at Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Robert Lynn Draper is a very special person to his friends and neighbors in Putnam County, and he is also dearly loved by his family whom he dearly loves in return; and

WHEREAS, his many personal and professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Draper is most appreciative of the relationships he shares with his wife, Christine Draper, their daughter, Mary Anne Helton, their daughter and son-in-law, Lynn and Jeff Dudley, and their grandchildren, Brittany Helton, Erin Dudley and Weston Dudley; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to name a certain bridge near the City of Cookeville on State Route 135 in honor of Mr. Draper to honor his bountiful life of purpose and commitment to his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the bridge spanning the eastern branch of Blackburn Fork Creek at mile marker 14.72 on State Route 135 in Putnam County is hereby designated the "Robert Lynn Draper Bridge" as a tribute to an exceptional farmer, excellent public servant and even more accomplished human being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the "Robert Lynn Draper 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 this resolution shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if Putnam County, Tennessee, either (1) remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the Department of Transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution, or (2)

manufactures and erects such signs pursuant to state and federal guidelines and as approved by the Department. If electing option (1), Putnam County shall make payment of the estimated cost prior to any expenditure by the State for manufacture or installation of such signs. The Department shall return any unused portion of the estimated costs to Putnam County within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, Putnam County shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the Department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.