

HOUSE BILL 2753

By Borchert

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 69A in Henry County in honor of the late Warren G. Melton.

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, during their lifetime, contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than Warren G. Melton, one of Benton County's most productive and admired citizens; and

WHEREAS, Warren G. Melton was born in Big Sandy, Tennessee on June 12, 1921, and was raised on his parent's farm just south of Big Sandy; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, he married Ms. Annie Jean Stockdale, a marriage that would last for the next sixty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Mr. Melton proudly served his country by enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, after the war, he was one of the founding members of the Big Sandy post of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton served with distinction as the first chief for the Big Sandy Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton also worked in the service station business for over fifty years and operated Melton's Service Station for over thirty-five years; he was the first to bring automotive wrecker service to Big Sandy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton was a substitute rural mail carrier for forty years, and when he retired from that position he was the most senior substitute mail carrier in the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, when Benton County started contracting for ambulance service in the 1970s, Mr. Melton was chosen to operate the ambulance service in Big Sandy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton proudly carried forward the banner of public service as mayor of the city of Big Sandy and then served as a longtime member of the Benton County beer board, a position he held until his death in December of 2008; and

WHEREAS, Warren G. Melton is survived by his wife, Jean; a daughter, Jane Anne Melton Waters; and a son, James Warren Melton; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning the Big Sandy River on State Route 69A in Henry County is hereby designated the "Warren G. Melton Memorial Bridge" as a lasting tribute to an excellent public servant and an even more accomplished human being.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Warren G. Melton Memorial Bridge."

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.