

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 644

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to name a segment of U.S. Highway 64 in Hardeman County in honor of the late Scotty Plunk.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of 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 the late Scotty Plunk, one of the most dedicated and proficient employees ever to work for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT); and

WHEREAS, after beginning his illustrious career with TDOT in September 1982 as project supervisor for the Bethel Springs office, Mr. Plunk worked with purpose and commitment to advance through the ranks of the department; and

WHEREAS, he was eventually promoted to supervisor of construction and served with distinction in that position for many years; and

WHEREAS, road and bridge construction was not only Scotty Plunk's job, it was also his passion, and he loved visiting the various projects under his purview; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional who received numerous awards, Mr. Plunk was often heard to say: "I love my job and I love building roads and bridges"; and

WHEREAS, his favorite road project was the expansion of U.S. Highway 64 to four lanes; this highway connects the various phases of Mr. Plunk's life, running from his childhood home in Hardin County westward to Hornsby in Hardeman County, where he lived most of his adult life and raised his family, and then on to Shelby County, where he travelled for recreation, shopping, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, a native of Crump in Hardin County, Mr. Plunk held a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, in all of his personal and professional endeavors, Mr. Plunk enjoyed the love, companionship, and support of his wife of thirty-seven years, the former Patricia Parchman; his daughter, Crystal Plunk Hill; his two granddaughters, Caroline and Colleen Avent; and his identical twin grandsons, Carter and Cooper Hill; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that a segment of U.S. Highway 64 should bear his honorable name, because such highway tells the story of Scotty Plunk's bountiful life and distinguished career and his passion for road construction; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the segment of U.S. Highway 64 in Hardeman County between the municipalities of Bolivar and Hornsby is hereby designated the "Scotty Plunk Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to a singular 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 the segment of U.S. Highway 64 described in the first resolving clause as the "Scotty Plunk Memorial Highway".

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 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 resolution. 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appellation "Scotty Plunk Memorial Highway" provided for in this resolution is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality, or other governmental entity affected by this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of transportation.