

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 99

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge on State Route 91 in Carter County in honor of Clyde Marion "Mike" Sellers and Sara Whitehead Sellers.

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

WHEREAS, no Tennesseans are more deserving of this honor than Sara Whitehead Sellers and the late Clyde Marion "Mike" Sellers of Carter County; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Marion "Mike" Sellers was a veteran of both the United States Army Air Corps and the United States Air Force, and he retired from the Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant after thirty-two years of military service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sellers served as Chief Deputy of the Carter County Sheriff's Office and was elected interim Sheriff of Carter County in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sellers was a Mason, a member of the Jericho Shriners, the American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans; he also served as Vice President of the Carter County Republican Party, Vice President of Gideon's International, and as a deacon at Sinking Creek Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sellers was an honest, kind, and caring man who loved his family, his church, and his community, and he was devoted to his wife of sixty-two years, Sara Sellers; and

WHEREAS, Sara Whitehead Sellers was born in Old Butler and moved to the Central Community of Carter County in 1947; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sellers is a decorated veteran of the United States Air Force and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant after thirty years of service to our country; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sellers was appointed by President George W. Bush to the American Battle Monuments Commission and is a charter member of the Carter County War Memorial Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sellers has served as the Republican State Executive Committeewoman for the First District, which includes Carter County, and as a Board Member and Vice President of the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sellers has been a strong advocate for veterans, the homeless, and animals in Carter County and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the lives lived by Mike and Sara Sellers give true meaning to the phrase "Duty, Honor, Country"; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Carter County requests that the bridge spanning Sinking Creek on State Route 91 in the Central community of Carter County be designated as the "Mike and Sara Sellers Memorial Bridge"; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the bridge (Bridge No. 10SR0910001) spanning Sinking Creek on State Route 91 (Elizabethton Highway) in the Central community of Carter County is hereby designated as the "Mike and Sara Sellers Memorial Bridge" in recognition of these exemplary Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in the first resolving clause as the "Mike and Sara Sellers Memorial Bridge."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of the signs must be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and within state supplemental guidelines, as applicable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution becomes operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of the signs is paid to the department of transportation from nonstate funds within one year of the effective date of this resolution. The payment must be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of the signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for the signs within thirty days of the erection of the signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in the costs must be remitted to the department in nonstate funds within thirty days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

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