

SENATE BILL 135

By Ketron

AN ACT to name a bridge on U.S. Highway 64 in Lincoln County in honor of the late William R. Carter.

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

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late William R. Carter, one of Lincoln County's finest citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter exhibited a sincere love for his community, not only through his distinguished record of public service, but also through his participation in numerous civic activities; and

WHEREAS, William R. Carter was born on July 8, 1921, the son of Alexander Franklin and Mary Lou Hayes Carter, in the Coldwater Community, where his parents were superintendents of the County Poor Farm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter attended the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, earning a degree in civil engineering, and briefly taught at the University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter served his country honorably in the military, and set an example as a person, Christian, and family man that all would do well to emulate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter entered the U. S. Navy during World War II, became an officer, and served aboard the *U.S.S. Harding*, a destroyer that supported the D-Day invasion and another landing in southern France before sailing to the Pacific Theatre to participate in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home from the war, Mr. Carter married his high school

sweetheart, Jane Strong; and

WHEREAS, he then co-founded two construction firms, Carter-Williams Construction Co. and Farrar-Carter Construction Co., which merged into CFW Construction Co., Inc. in 1952; and

WHEREAS, CFW Construction Co., Inc. would become one of the largest construction companies in the United States, in addition to having construction workers abroad, from the 1960s until the early 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter served in leadership roles with the Tennessee Road Builders Association, University of Tennessee Space Institute, Motlow State Community College, Boy Scouts of America, Ranger Battalions Association, Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Development Board, Fayetteville-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, Fayetteville-Lincoln County Museum Association, Elks Club, Fayetteville Rotary Club, Falcon Club, Fayetteville Art League, Union National Bank board of directors, and Hillsboro-Cedar Knob Foxhounds; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter was very involved in the activities of the Fayetteville United Methodist Church, where he served in many capacities, including as teacher of the Men's Bible Class for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter served with distinction on the Lincoln County Commission from 1970 to 1982; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter shared his life story in his book entitled *Unto the Hills*; and

WHEREAS, William R. Carter will always be remembered as a man of integrity who continually strived for the betterment of his community, county, and country; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Commission has petitioned this General Assembly to name a certain bridge on U.S. Highway 64 to honor Mr. Carter's memory and to permanently commemorate his bountiful life of purpose and commitment to the greater good; 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 Cane Creek on U.S. Highway 64 in Lincoln County is hereby designated the "William R. Carter Memorial Bridge" as a lasting tribute to an excellent public servant and 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 "William R. Carter 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.