

HOUSE BILL 453

By McDonald

AN ACT to designate a segment of State Route 174 in Sumner County as the "Cora Cline Memorial Highway."

WHEREAS, as a member of the Grand Ole Opry in the late 1920s, Cora Cline became one of country music's first female stars; and

WHEREAS, Cora Cline's radio performances as a hammered dulcimer soloist brought her national recognition, and she is frequently credited with helping to build the foundation and popularity of country music; and

WHEREAS, born Kitty Cora Denning in 1877, she grew up in the Fairfield Community near Westmoreland and married Grundy Cline, a timber man; together they raised nine children; and

WHEREAS, by 1925, Mrs. Cline had become widely known for her dulcimer playing; her growing fame attracted the attention of "Judge" George Hay, founder of WSM's Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1928 as a duet with her relative, Edgar Cline, a fiddler, Cora Cline was soon asked to perform on a weekly basis as a solo act on the Opry, receiving one dollar per minute of air time; and

WHEREAS, the dulcimer she played with small, wooden mallets on the live radio program was handmade of sugar maple; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cline became a hit with early Opry audiences, performing such tunes as *Sally Goodin'*, *Airplane*, *Going Up Cripple Creek*, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, and *Arkansas Traveler*; and

WHEREAS, uncomfortable about the weekly drive to Nashville, she eventually retired from the Opry and spent her later years living on a farm near Portland, playing her dulcimer mainly for family and friends; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable woman was the grandmother of forty-two, great-grandmother of sixty-nine, and great-great-grandmother of twelve at the time of her passing at the venerable age of ninety-six on March 10, 1973; and

WHEREAS, the Sumner County Board of Commissioners has petitioned this Body to name a certain segment of State Route 174 in honor of Cora Cline as a lasting tribute to her important contributions as a pioneering country music artist; and

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

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, that segment of State Route 174 in Sumner County from Mile Marker 32 to Mile Marker 33 is hereby designated the "Cora Cline Memorial Highway."

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of State Route 174 described in Section 1 as the "Cora Cline Memorial Highway."

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. The appellation the "Cora Cline Memorial Highway" provided for in this act 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 act.

SECTION 6. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment or segments of, or bridges on, any highways described in Section 1 of this act as the "Cora Cline Memorial Highway."

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.