

HOUSE BILL 491

By Tidwell

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 13 in Perry County in honor of the late Elmer Garner, former Sheriff of Perry County.

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 Elmer Garner, former Sheriff of Perry County and one of its finest citizens; and

WHEREAS, few people have touched as many lives as Sheriff Garner, a gentleman who attained excellence both as a public servant and a human being; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Garner was a person of impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, and he worked assiduously to establish a brighter future for the good people of Perry County throughout his distinguished tenure as their Sheriff and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Garner was born November 2, 1915 in Flatwoods, Tennessee; and;

WHEREAS, after bravely serving his country in World War II as a Military Police Officer, Mr. Garner returned home to Flatwoods, where he began driving a school bus for the Perry County school system; and

WHEREAS, while residing in Flatwoods, Mr. Garner married Edith Creasy in 1950, and the couple was subsequently blessed with two children, Judy and Bobby; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his credentials and experience as a Military Police Officer, Elmer Garner was appointed to serve as Sheriff of Perry County in 1953; he was later elected to three additional terms and served a total of seven productive years as Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, after finishing his meritorious tenure as Sheriff, Elmer Garner continued his public service by working for the State of Tennessee's Highway Department; and

WHEREAS, he also remained loyal to his home community of Flatwoods and operated a general store there until his passing in November 1978; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to name a certain bridge on State Route 13 in Perry County to honor Sheriff Garner'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 other provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning the Buffalo River on State Route 13 north of Flatwoods in Perry County is hereby designated the "Sheriff Elmer Garner 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 "Sheriff Elmer Garner Memorial Bridge."

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional 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 take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.