

**RESOLUTION
13-022**

WHEREAS, Willard A. Estep was born September 16, 1918 and grew up in the western edge of Lee County, Virginia near the Big Spring Union Community of Claiborne County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gilpin Estep was born April 27, 1919 in Lee County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Willard Estep and Ruth Gilpin were married on November 26, 1943; and

WHEREAS, Willard Estep, as a member of America's greatest generation, served in World War II with the 3rd Army, 95th Infantry Division, from Omaha Beach to near Metz, France where he was seriously wounded on November 26, 1944 exactly one year after his wedding day; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Ruth Gilpin Estep worked as a literal "Rosy the Riveter" at the Glen L. Martin Company in Baltimore, Maryland working on the production of airplanes destined for the European and Pacific Theatres; and

WHEREAS, following his discharge from the service in 1945, Willard Estep and other family members began a "rolling grocery store" business in Lee County and Claiborne County; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, Willard and Ruth Estep established Estep's Grocery near Ewing, Virginia and operated this business until 1987; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Estep departed this life on July 6, 2000 and Willard Estep departing this life on December 26, 2009 and are survived by their children Kathy Estep Turner and Terry Estep, both of Ewing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to commemorate the lives of Willard and Ruth Estep, the Lee County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation formally designate the Business 58 bridge over Indian Creek west of Ewing, and located approximately 100 feet from the Estep Grocery building, as the "Willard and Ruth Estep Memorial Bridge".

Adopted this the 16th day of July, 2013.





CLERK OF THE BOARD