



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Shannon Valentine
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 786-2701
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Agenda item #13

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

June 17, 2020

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Stinson, Seconded By: Ms. DeTuncq
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: “Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge”

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors wishes to honor and memorialize the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Olen Wesley Rasnic. Mr. Rasnic was born on June 14, 1943 and resided in the Sticklelyville Community of Lee County. He graduated from Pennington High School in 1963 where he was captain of the football team, received the Most Valuable Player award and Lonesome Pine Sportsmanship Trophy for demonstrating extraordinary commitment and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Mr. Rasnic was drafted for military service and entered the United States Army in 1964 serving in the 1st Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, C Company where he attained the rank of Private First Class; and

WHEREAS, PFC Rasnic began his tour of duty in Vietnam on July 28, 1965 and on January 18, 1966, PFC Olen Wesley Rasnic was wounded by a Viet Cong sniper’s bullet in South Vietnam and died in a United States Army field hospital on January 20, 1966 at the age of 22, approximately one month before he would have completed his tour of duty and been discharged; and

WHEREAS, PFC Rasnic was the first Lee Countian to die in Vietnam, and is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. at panel 04E, Line 080; and

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WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Lee County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated April 21, 2020, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life and ultimate sacrifice of Olen Wesley Rasnic, name the bridge on Route 612, Middle Wallens Creek Road, over Dry Creek, Lee County, as the "Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge"; and

WHEREAS, § 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities named by the CTB and requires that the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining such signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located or by the private entity whose name is attached to the transportation facility so named; and

WHEREAS, in a letter dated May 19, 2020 from the Lee County Administrator, Lee County has agreed to pay VDOT for the costs of producing, installing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the bridge on Route 612, Middle Wallens Creek Road, over Dry Creek, Lee County as the "Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VDOT is directed to produce, place, and maintain the signs calling attention to this naming, and secure payment from Lee County for these costs as required by law.

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CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: “Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge”

Issue: Commemorative naming of the bridge on Route 612, Middle Wallens Creek Road, over Dry Creek, Lee County as the “Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge”.

Facts: Lee County enacted a resolution on April 21, 2020 to honor the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Olen Wesley Rasnic. Mr. Rasnic was born on June 14, 1943 and resided in the Stickleyville Community of Lee County. He graduated from Pennington High School in 1963 where he was captain of the football team, received the Most Valuable Player award and Lonesome Pine Sportsmanship Trophy for demonstrating extraordinary commitment and sportsmanship.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Rasnic was drafted for military service and entered the United States Army in 1964 serving in the 1st Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, C Company where he attained the rank of Private First Class.

PFC Rasnic began his tour of duty in Vietnam on July 28, 1965 and on January 18, 1966, PFC Olen Wesley Rasnic was wounded by a Viet Cong sniper’s bullet in South Vietnam and died in a United States Army field hospital on January 20, 1966. He was just 22 years old at the time of his ultimate sacrifice for his country and was the first Lee Countian to die in Vietnam. PFC Rasnic is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. at panel 04E, Line 080.

Recommendations: The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recommends this request be approved.

Action Required by CTB: The *Code of Virginia* requires a majority of the CTB members to approve a resolution naming a highway or bridge, as appropriate. A resolution will be provided for the Board’s consideration.

Result if Approved: The bridge on Route 612, Middle Wallens Creek Road, over Dry Creek, Lee County will be named as the “Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law and by letter from the Lee County Administrator, Lee County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: VDOT is not aware of any opposition to this proposal.



Lee County Board of Supervisors

LEE COUNTY
P.O. Box 367
Jonesville, Virginia 24263-0367

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Telephone 276-346-7714
Fax 276-346-7712
www.leecova.org

May 19, 2020

Virginia Department of Transportation
Wise Residency Office
Attn: Glenn M. Cantrell, Eng. Tech. Sr. – Permits
703 Hurricane Road, N.E.
Wise, Virginia 24293-0060

RE: Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge
Route 612, Lee County

Mr. Cantrell:

This is to confirm that the Lee County Board of Supervisors agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signage for naming bridge structure 6011 over Dry Creek on Route 612 (Middle Wallens Creek Road) the “Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge”. This action was taken by Resolution dated March 17, 2020 which has already been provided to you.

If you should need anything further in this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

D. Dane Poe
County Administrator



Lee County Board of Supervisors

LEE COUNTY
P.O. Box 367
Jonesville, Virginia 24263-0367

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Telephone 276-346-7714
Fax 276-346-7712
www.leecova.org

April 28, 2020

Jackie Christian, Assistant Residency Administrator
VDOT Wise Residency
703 Hurricane Rd., N.E.
Wise, VA 24293

Dear Mr. Christian:

Enclosed please find copies of Resolution 20-006 regarding "Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge" adopted by the Lee County Board of Supervisors on April 21, 2020.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors agrees to provide the cost of installation and maintenance of the signage.

If you should need anything further at this time, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Jeny Hughes
Administrative Assistant

Enclosures

RESOLUTION

20-006

WHEREAS, Olen Wesley Rasnic was born June 14, 1943 residing in the Stickleyle Community of Lee County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rasnic graduated from Pennington High School in 1963 where he served as Captain of the football team, receiving the Most Valuable Player award and the Lonesome Pine Sportsmanship Trophy which demonstrated his desire to excel and win and also his sense of fairness and fair play; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from high school, Mr. Rasnic was drafted for military service and entered the United States Army in 1964 attaining the rank of Private First Class while serving in the 1st Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, C Company; and

WHEREAS, PFC Rasnic began his tour of duty in Vietnam on July 28, 1965 and on January 18, 1966, PFC Rasnic was wounded by a Viet Cong sniper's bullet in South Vietnam and died in a U.S. Army Field Hospital on January 20, 1966, approximately one month short of completing his tour of duty and being discharged. PFC Rasnic was just 22 years of age at the time of his death and was the first Lee Countian to die in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, PFC Rasnic is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. at panel 04E, Line 080; and likewise, the people of Lee County and the family and friends who knew and loved him wish to honor and remember him with a bridge named in his honor near where he grew up; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to commemorate the brave service and sacrifice of PFC Rasnic to country and countrymen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lee County Board of Supervisors, in accordance with the requirements of Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia, does hereby request the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation formally designate and name the bridge over Dry Creek on Route 612 (Middle Wallens Creek Road) as the "Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge".

Adopted this the 21st day of April, 2020.




CLERK OF THE BOARD



Proposed Bridge Naming
"Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge"



VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation
Maintenance Division
CTB MEETING: June 17, 2020

Lee County
Proposed Bridge Naming:
"Wesley Rasnic Memorial Bridge"