



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Commonwealth Transportation Board*

Shannon Valentine  
Chairperson

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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*Agenda item #2*

### **RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**January 12, 2022**

#### **MOTION**

**Made By:** Mr. Fowlkes **Seconded By:** Ms. Hynes  
**Action:** Motion carried, unanimously

#### **Title: Intersection Naming: “SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection”**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Russell County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated July 12, 2021, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life, service and ultimate sacrifice to his country of Fred Taylor, name the intersection of U. S. Alternate Route 58, Castlewood Road, and Route 683, Memorial Drive, Russell County as the “SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection”; and

**WHEREAS**, Russell County, by its July 12, 2021 resolution, has agreed to pay the cost of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming; 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.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the intersection of U. S. Alternate Route 58, Castlewood Road, from 0.05 miles south of Route 683 to 0.05 miles north of Route 683, and Route 683, Memorial Drive, from U. S. Alternate Route 58 to 0.05 miles east of U. S. Alternate Route 58, Russell County as the “SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection”; and

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Bridge Naming: "SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection"  
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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that VDOT is directed to produce, place, and maintain the signs calling attention to this naming, and secure payment from Russell County for these costs as required by law.

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## CTB Decision Brief

Intersection Naming: "SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection"

**Issue:** Commemorative naming of the intersection of U. S. Alternate Route 58, Castlewood Road and Route 683, Memorial Drive, Russell County as the "SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection".

**Facts:** Russell County enacted a resolution on July 12, 2021 to honor the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Fred Taylor to his country and fellow soldiers. Sergeant First Class Fred Taylor was a member of the United States Army Special Forces, also known as the Green Berets.

He was a member of Detachment B-52, Project Delta, which was a deep-cover classified operation in Vietnam with United States Special Forces personnel training and leading indigenous irregular forces in the conduct of long-range reconnaissance patrols deep within enemy-controlled territory within the Republic of Vietnam.

On July 11, 1965, Master Sergeant Henry J. Gallant and SFC Fred Taylor were the leaders of an eight-man long range reconnaissance patrol to gather intelligence north of Highway 19 prior to a large-scale allied operation to reopen that route. At approximately 1600 hours on July 13, 1965 the team was ambushed by an enemy force of unknown size as it moved through jungle foliage on the south side of a mountain approximately five miles north of Highway 19. The initial burst of fire caused the team to split up. SFC Taylor immediately established radio contact with friendly forces requesting an emergency extraction.

As the intense battle raged around them, Henry Gallant suffered a gunshot wound to the stomach. The last time MSG Gallant and SFC Taylor were seen by the surviving indigenous patrol members, Fred Taylor was helping Henry Gallant into the surrounding jungle as hostile forces pressed towards them.

Once extraction was requested, a search and rescue operation was conducted over the next several days. Five of the indigenous team members were recovered alive but the rescue personnel were unable to locate any trace of SFC Taylor, MSG Gallant or the other three indigenous personnel. Henry Gallant and Fred Taylor were reported as Missing in Action.

In July 1966, one year after loss, a Board of Inquiry examined the witness debriefing statements and other relevant information and determined the missing men's status should be altered to Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered.

**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 intersection of U. S. Alternate Route 58, Castlewood Road, from 0.05 miles south of Route 683 to 0.05 miles north of Route 683, and Route 683, Memorial Drive, from U. S. Alternate Route 58 to 0.05 miles east of U. S. Alternate Route 58, Russell County will be known as the “SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection”. In accordance with law and by resolution, Russell 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.

# Russell County Virginia

## "The Heart of Southwest Virginia"

Oris Christian At-  
Large

Lou Ann Wallace  
District 2

Carl Rhea  
District 3

Rebecca Dye, Chairperson  
District 6

Tim Lovelace, Vice-Chairman  
District 1

David Eaton  
District 4

Steve Breeding  
District 5

Lonzo Lester  
County Administrator

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## Russell County Boards of Supervisors

### Resolution

**Title : Naming of the Alternate Route 58 (Castlewood Road) Intersection with Route 683 (Memorial Drive) in Russell County, Va. as the "SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection".**

**WHEREAS**, On 11 July 1965, Sergeant First Class Fred Taylor US Army Special Forces (the "Green Berets"). Detachment B-52 (Project Delta), where he made the ultimate sacrifice.

**WHEREAS**, Project Delta was a deep-cover classified operation in Vietnam with US Special Forces personnel training and leading indigenous irregular forces in the conduct of long-range reconnaissance patrols deep within enemy-controlled territory within the Republic of Vietnam. Their missions included locating enemy units, gathering intelligence, bomb damage assessments, artillery/air strike coordination, special purpose raids and conducting harassing and deception missions. Project Delta had the capability of deploying into any tactical zone within South Vietnam.

**WHEREAS**, On 11 July 1965, Master Sergeant Henry J. Gallant and Sergeant First Class Fred Taylor were the leaders of an eight-man long range reconnaissance patrol. The team was inserted by helicopter into its area of operation to gather intelligence north of Highway 19 prior to a large-scale allied operation to reopen that route. At approximately 1600 hours on 13 July 1965, the team was ambushed by an enemy force of unknown size as it moved through jungle foliage on the south side of a mountain approximately five miles north of Highway 19. The initial burst of enemy gunfire caused the team to split up with Fred Taylor, Henry Gallant, and a South Vietnamese soldier in one group and the other seven team members in another. SFC Taylor immediately established radio contact with friendly forces informing them of the team's location and requesting an emergency extraction. As the intense battle raged around them, Henry Gallant suffered a gunshot wound to the stomach, although its severity is not known. The last time MSG Gallant and SFC Taylor were seen by the surviving indigenous patrol members, Fred Taylor was helping Henry Gallant into the surrounding jungle as hostile forces pressed toward them.

**WHEREAS**, Once extraction was requested, a search and rescue (SAR) operation was conducted for the missing team members. Over the next few days SAR personnel, using both air and ground assets, successfully recovered five of the indigenous team members alive, but were unable to locate any trace of SFC Taylor, MSG Gallant or the other three indigenous personnel. At the time the formal search effort was terminated, Henry Gallant and Fred Taylor were reported as Missing in Action.

**WHEREAS**, In July 1966, one year after loss, a Board of Inquiry was convened to examine all known fact and circumstances surrounding the loss of MSG Gallant and SFC Taylor. After examining the witness debriefing statements and other relevant information, the Board determined the missing men's status should be altered to Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered (KIA/BNR).

**WHEREAS**, Section 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia* authorizes the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to give suitable names to state highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities and change the names of any highways, bridges, interchanges, or other transportation facilities forming a part of the systems of state highways; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Russell County, in accordance with the requirements of Section 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, does hereby request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board name the intersection of Alternate Route 58 (Castlewood Road) and Route 683 (Memorial Drive) on Alternate Route 58 from 0.05 mile south of Rt 683 to 0.05 miles north of Rt 683 and on Rt 683 from Alternate Route 58 to 0.05 miles east of Alternate Route 58 as the "SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Russell County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.



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Board of Supervisors Chairperson

7/12/201

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Russell County



Maintenance Division

CTB MEETING: January 12, 2022

Russell County

Proposed Intersection Naming:  
**“SFC Fred Taylor Memorial Intersection”**