



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III  
Chairperson

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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*Agenda item # 2*

### RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

September 17, 2024

#### MOTION

**Made By:** Mr. Fowlkes, **Seconded By:** Mr. Coleman

**Action:** Motion Carried, Unanimously

#### **Title: Bridge Naming: “Herbert Charles Phipps Memorial Bridge”**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated July 23, 2024, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Herbert Charles Phipps, name the bridge on Route 631, Brush Creek Road, Dickenson County, over the Pound River at the intersection of Ramey flats, as the “Herbert Charles Phipps Memorial Bridge”; and

**WHEREAS**, Dickenson County, by that same resolution dated July 23, 2024, has agreed to be responsible for payment of all sign costs billed by the Virginia Department of Transportation calling attention to this naming, which will include the costs to produce, place, and maintain the signs; and

**WHEREAS**, § 33.2-213 provides that 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 bridge on Route 631, Brush Creek Road, Dickenson County, over the Pound River at the intersection of Ramey flats, as the “Herbert Charles Phipps Memorial Bridge”.

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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 Dickenson County for these costs as required by law.

####

## CTB Decision Brief

### Bridge Naming: “Herbert Charles Phipps Memorial Bridge”

**Issue:** Commemorative naming, at the request of Dickenson County, of the bridge on Route 631, Brush Creek Road, Dickenson County, over the Pound River at the intersection of Ramey flats, as the “Herbert Charles Phipps Memorial Bridge”.

**Facts:** The Dickenson County Board of Supervisors enacted a resolution on July 23, 2024, to honor the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Herbert Charles Phipps to his country and his community.

According to that resolution, Staff Sergeant Phipps was born on February 9, 1938, in Dickenson County, grew up in Brush Creek and graduated from Clintwood High School in 1956.

He was a member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, Infantry Division, home based in Fort Bragg, NC and served as Staff Sergeant in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry, A Company in Vietnam.

On April 22, 1962, while on maneuvers near Rowlesburg, WV, Sergeant Phipps unhesitatingly jumped into the icy, treacherous Cheat River to reach a girl who was clinging to a canoe that had capsized on the far side of the swollen river. While he fought the swift current and cold waters to reach the girl, she lost her hold on the canoe and disappeared. Once at the shore, he learned that one of his comrades, who had also participated in the rescue effort, had been swept into the nearby rapids and disappeared. With unfaltering courage and perseverance, Sergeant Phipps spent several hours diving and searching the banks of the dangerous river trying to locate the bodies of the two victims.

Sergeant Phipps’ heroic action is in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

On September 20, 1966, in Tuy Hoa, Vietnam, Staff Sergeant Herbert Charles Phipps’ platoon was on a reconnaissance mission when it came under intense enemy fire from the rear. Sergeant Phipps, leader of the rear element, maneuvered his squad toward the enemy position to neutralize it. In doing so, he was fatally wounded as he reached his objective.

His squad, inspired by Sergeant Phipps’ aggressive and determined leadership, continued the assault and completely routed the enemy, enabling the platoon to proceed and successfully accomplish its initial mission.

Sergeant Phipps was posthumously awarded medals for bravery, dedication and gallantry in action, receiving the Silver Star, Soldier’s Medal, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

**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 631, Brush Creek Road, Dickenson County, over the Pound River at the intersection of Ramey flats, will be known as the “Herbert Charles Phipps Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law, and by resolution dated July 23, 2024, Dickenson 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 has not received any public comments on this proposal.



## DICKENSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SHELBY WILLIS, Chair  
Kenady District

RICHARD THACKER  
Sandlick District

CHRIS HALL  
Willis District

County Administrator  
LARRY K. BARTON

PEGGY KISER, Vice Chair  
Ervinton District

RHONDA SLUSS  
Clintwood District

County Attorney  
WILLIAM J. STURGILL

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Herbert Charles Phipps, born February 9, 1938 in Dickenson County, growing up in Brush Creek and graduating from Clintwood High School in 1956; and

**WHEREAS**, he was the son of Lydle and Hazel Phipps and having one sister, Carol; and

**WHEREAS**, he was a member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, Infantry Division, home based in Fort Bragg, N.C. and served as Staff Sergeant in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry, A Company in Vietnam; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 22, 1962, while on maneuvers near Rowlesburg, West Virginia. When Sergeant Phipps was informed that a girl was clinging to a canoe which capsized near the far shore of the icy, treacherous Cheat River, he unhesitatingly volunteered his services in the rescue effort. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he plunged into the swollen river, and while he fought the swift current and cold waters to reach the girl, she lost her hold on the canoe and disappeared. Upon reaching the far shore, he learned that one of his comrades, who also participated in the rescue effort, had been swept into the nearby rapids and disappeared. With unfaltering perseverance and courage, he spent several hours in diving and searching the banks of the dangerous river trying to locate the bodies of the two victims; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Phipps' heroic action is in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 20, 1966, in Tuy Hoa, Vietnam, Staff Sergeant Phipps' platoon was on a reconnaissance mission on a river bank when it came under intense enemy fire from the rear. Sergeant Phipps, leader of the rear element, maneuvered his squad toward the enemy position to neutralize it. In doing so, he was fatally wounded as he reached his objective; and

**WHEREAS**, his squad, inspired by his aggressive and determined leadership, continued the assault and completely routed the enemy, enabling the platoon to proceed and successfully accomplish its initial mission; and

**WHEREAS**, he was awarded posthumously medals for bravery, dedication and gallantry in action, receiving the Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star and Purple Heart; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors wishes to honor our Dickenson

County soldier who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our County, Community and Nation; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dickenson County, in accordance with the requirements of Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia, does hereby respectfully request the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation formally designate the bridge on Route 631, Brush Creek Road, where the bridge crosses Pound River at intersection of Ramey flats, as the “Herbert Charles Phipps Memorial Bridge”.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County of Dickenson, Virginia will assume the costs for the fabrication, installation, and maintenance of signs for this naming.

**ADOPTED** this 23 day of JULY, 2024.

DICKENSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

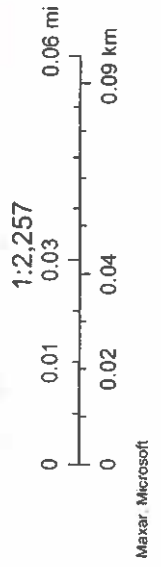
By: Shelbie Willis  
Shelbie Willis, Chairwoman

Attest: Teresa Lyall  
Teresa Lyall, Clerk

# MERG SWVA



August 7, 2024



# Proposed Bridge Naming

Herbert Charles Phipps Memorial Bridge

GPS: 37.111149, -82.274197

Route 631 - Brush Creek Road

Structure No: 6139

Over: Pound River

## Legend



Proposed Bridge Naming







Dickenson County



**Proposed Bridge Naming  
"Herbert Charles Phipps  
Memorial Bridge"**



**CTB MEETING: September 18, 2024**

Dickenson County

Proposed Bridge Naming:  
**"Herbert Charles Phipps Memorial Bridge"**

