

RESOLUTION NO. 1995-25

A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE STATE ROUTE 22 IN WEAKLEY COUNTY AS THE "GOVERNOR NED MCWHERTER PARKWAY".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should create a lasting tribute to a Tennessean who has contributed so significantly to the progress of this great state; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ned McWherter is one such remarkable public servant, a voice of integrity in state and national political circles; and

WHEREAS, born in the Weakley County town of Palmersville, Ned McWherter has provided unprecedented leadership for Tennessee as its 46th governor; and

WHEREAS, Governor McWherter's distinguished career in state government began in 1968 when he won a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives. His down-to-earth business sense and commitment to progress quickly earned him the respect of his legislative peers. After just two terms, he was elected Speaker of the House, a position he held longer than anyone in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, as Speaker, Governor McWherter was instrumental in re-establishing the General Assembly as an independent branch of Tennessee government; he prided himself on continuing Tennessee's tradition of careful fiscal management and worked closely with four governors during his legislative career to find creative solutions to issues facing Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Governor McWherter's desire to keep Tennessee moving forward led him to seek the governorship, which he won by more than 100,000 votes; and

WHEREAS, throughout his stellar service as governor of this great state, Governor McWherter has stressed strict financial management, elimination of bureaucratic red tape, and finding creative solutions to the problems facing Tennessee. He has also brought innovative management styles to state government,

allowing him to expand services to the public, make major new investments in education and economic development, and keep the state's budget balanced, without increasing taxes; and

WHEREAS, since Governor McWherter took office, Tennessee has enjoyed a period of record economic growth and development, emerging as a national leader in the creation of jobs; and

WHEREAS, during his administration, Tennessee's economy has been rated the strongest in the South, and the fifth strongest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, with the Governor's emphasis on education reform to create a highly trained Tennessee work force for the year 2000 and beyond, Tennessee has become known throughout the world as a premier location for new industry and business; and

WHEREAS, Governor McWherter has been an unremitting force in efforts to open up communities for new jobs; he has also begun the first state-funded program in Tennessee to help depressed communities build the facilities they need to attract industry and jobs; and

WHEREAS, because of his inspired leadership, Tennessee has the lowest unemployment rate since we began keeping records, and there is but one county with double digit unemployment; and

WHEREAS, he has continued Tennessee's leadership in education reform by emphasizing competitive pay for classroom teachers, reductions in the state's dropout rate and creation of the innovative Literacy 2000 Program to give all Tennesseans the chance to learn reading and writing skills; and

WHEREAS, in the past three years, Tennessee's primary and secondary schools have experienced the nation's greatest growth in state funding, and increase of 49%; and

WHEREAS, as governor, Ned McWherter carried out the largest road building program in Tennessee history, constructing some one thousand miles of roads; and

WHEREAS, in the field of corrections, Governor McWherter's high tech management system cut operating costs in new prisons by almost half. Today, Tennessee has the only fully accredited

prison system in the nation as we have taken control of the prisons back from criminals and courts; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has also been recognized as the best managed state in the nation during the McWherter administration; and

WHEREAS, he has provided universal health care coverage for Tennesseans by means of his astute management of the TennCare program; while maintaining a state and local tax burden that ranks 50th in the nation; and

WHEREAS, because of his strength and compassion, 390,000 members of working families can now afford health insurance, at a savings to taxpayers from the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, Governor McWherter has increased state financial commitments to higher education through his education reform bill, while expanding opportunities for excellence in scientific research, technology, health sciences and the arts; and

WHEREAS, his name is synonymous with hard work, devotion, professionalism, innovation, creativity, equanimity and positive thinking.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the county legislative body of Weakley County, meeting in regular session on the 20th day of March, 1995, that State Representative Roy B. Herron be requested to introduce and pass a resolution of the General Assembly to designate State Route 22 in Weakley County as the "Ned Ray McWherter Parkway" in recognition of his meritorious and peerless career in public service and his unswerving commitment to the continued growth and prosperity of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation be directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating State Route 22 in Weakley County as the "Ned Ray McWherter Parkway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to State Representative Roy B. Herron.

PURSUANT TO THE RULES OF THE WEAKLEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY THIS

RESOLUTION IS SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

George Brinson James H. Westbrook, Jr.

Approved by Public Works Committee

Approved by Chairman Legislative Committee;

James H. Westbrook, Jr.  
James H. Westbrook, Jr. Chairman

Johnny Vincent  
Johnny Vincent, Chairman

Motion was made by Commissioner Mac Buckley that  
the foregoing resolution be approved. Seconded by Commissioner  
James H. Westbrook Jr.. Upon being put to a roll call  
vote, motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Ron Gifford  
Ron Gifford, County Executive

Faye Butts  
Faye Butts, County Clerk