

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: JUNE 22, 2015 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 23

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF POP AND COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND GEORGE HAMILTON, IV AND REQUESTING THE US421/B40 BRIDGE OVER SALEM AVENUE AND RESEARCH PARKWAY BE NAMED IN HIS HONOR

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

See attached

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF POP AND
COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND GEORGE HAMILTON, IV AND REQUESTING THE
US421/B40 BRIDGE OVER SALEM AVENUE AND RESEARCH PARKWAY
BE NAMED IN HIS HONOR**

WHEREAS, George Hamilton, IV was born in Winston-Salem, N.C. on July 19, 1937, raised in the Moravian Church, and graduated from R. J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem, N.C.; and

WHEREAS, while a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hamilton recorded the teen pop ballad, "A Rose and a Baby Ruth" for Chapel Hill's "Colonial Records"; the recording became so popular on radio that it was bought by ABC-Paramount Records for national distribution and radio promotion, becoming ABC-Paramount's first million-selling hit record; and

WHEREAS, George Hamilton, IV was soon invited to move to Washington, D.C. to become a member of the cast of the Jimmy Dean TV Show where he performed regularly with Jimmy Dean and Patsy Cline; he also appeared on Dick Clark's "American Bandstand", Arthur Godfrey's "Talent Scouts", "The Perry Como Show", and hosted his own National Television Musical/Variety Shows on both CBS-TV and ABC-TV in the 1950's; and

WHEREAS, in June, 1958, Mr. Hamilton married his high school sweetheart, Adelaide "Tinky" Peyton; the couple had three children and in 2008 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Mr. Hamilton made history by being the first "Pop" Singer to "Go Country"; he moved his family to Nashville, TN where he recorded Country hit, "Before This Day Ends" and signature Country (and Pop) hit, "Abilene"; and

WHEREAS, George Hamilton, IV became a member of the Grand Ole Opry where he performed regularly for 54 years; his final performance at the Grand Ole Opry was on September 6, 2014; he passed away on September 17, 2014; and

WHEREAS, following his success at the International Festival of Country Music in London, Mr. Hamilton was invited to host his own musical variety television series on BBC-TV across Great Britain; he went on to host several such TV series throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Hamilton and his family moved back to North Carolina and in 1974, George Hamilton, IV became the first Country music performer to go "Behind the Iron Curtain" where he gave a lecture/concert at Moscow University and headlined sold-out concerts in Prague, Czechoslovakia; and

WHEREAS, for all of his international achievements in promoting American Country Music globally, Billboard Magazine gave George Hamilton, IV the title, “The International Ambassador of Country Music”; and

WHEREAS, George Hamilton, IV’s awards and honors include: Gold Records, Grammy and CMA Nominations, The Dove Award, International Male Vocalist of the Year Award, North Carolina Hall of Fame (2000), North Carolina Music Hall of Fame (2010), and Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame (2012); and

WHEREAS, George Hamilton, IV recorded over 100 albums during his 58-year music career and throughout his acclaimed music career he always claimed Winston-Salem, North Carolina as his hometown; and

WHEREAS, one of George Hamilton, IV’s most memorable and frequent quotes was, “In a world of walls, music builds bridges”, therefore it is very fitting to request that the bridge which crosses SE Salem Street and Research Parkway near his final resting place, “God’s Acre”, be named in his memory.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the life and accomplishments of George Hamilton, IV and requests the N.C. Board of Transportation name the US421/B40 Bridge over Salem Avenue and Research Parkway in his honor.

Adopted this 22nd day of June 2015.