



**TOWN OF DILLSBORO  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NAMING JACKSON  
COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 27  
THE WADE AND BECKY WILSON BRIDGE**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Walter Wade Wilson (Wade) was born in Jackson County on October 18, 1926, and died on February 7, 2015, as a lifelong resident of Jackson County; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wade Wilson joined the United States Navy upon graduation from Sylva High School and honorably served our country during World War II; and,

**WHEREAS**, Miss Rebecca Susan Cannon (Becky) was born in Jackson County on January 13, 1924, and died on August 30, 2002, as a lifelong resident of Dillsboro and Jackson County; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wade Wilson and Miss Becky Cannon were married on October 6, 1948; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wade Wilson, prior to becoming Mayor, served as Alderman for the Town of Dillsboro from May 4, 1971, until becoming mayor; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wade Wilson, after being elected by write-in ballot, was sworn into office as Mayor of Dillsboro on January 5, 1976; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wade Wilson served twenty-five years as Mayor of Dillsboro until December 3, 2001; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wade Wilson, worked diligently to advance business and tourism development within Dillsboro during his tenure as Alderman and Mayor; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Becky Wilson was instrumental in preserving the history of traditional Appalachian crafting in Dillsboro; and,

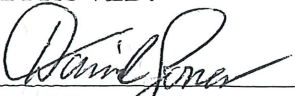
**WHEREAS**, the Dillsboro Board of Aldermen requests the North Carolina Board of Transportation honor the service of Mr. Wade Wilson to the Town of Dillsboro, Jackson County, and the United States of America; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Dillsboro Board of Aldermen requests the North Carolina Board of Transportation honor the contributions of Mrs. Becky Wilson to the Town of Dillsboro and Jackson County,

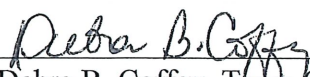
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Dillsboro requests that Jackson County Bridge Number 27 over Scotts Creek and Southern Railroad on US Highway 23 Business be named the Wade and Becky Wilson Bridge.

Adopted on this the 9th day of August, 2021.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Jones, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra B. Coffey, Town Clerk

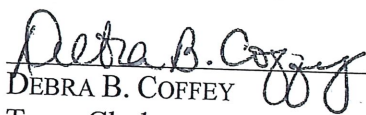
MUNICIPAL  
SEAL



TOWN OF DILLSBORO  
PO Box 1088  
Dillsboro, NC 28725  
(828) 586-1439  
info@dillsboronc.info

I, **DEBRA B. COFFEY**, Town Clerk of the Town of Dillsboro, North Carolina, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Dillsboro Board of Aldermen which was held on the 9th day of August, 2021.

WITNESS my hand and Municipal Seal this the 17th day of October, 2021.

  
DEBRA B. COFFEY  
Town Clerk

MUNICIPAL  
SEAL

Board of Aldermen: Jim Cochran ♦ David Gates ♦ Tim Hall ♦ Beauford Riddle  
David Jones, Mayor ♦ Tim Parris, Vice-Mayor

March 10, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the family of, Wade and Becky Cannon Wilson would like to ask permission for the new bridge linking Dillsboro and the town of Sylva, be dedicated in their honor.

Our mother, Becky was a lifelong Dillsboro resident and graduated from Dillsboro Elementary School and Sylva High School. After attending college she returned home where she became the first and only employee of Jackson County Savings and Loan for many years. She continued to work serving Jackson County residents with their financial needs at Jackson County Savings and Loan until her retirement. Becky's family owned and operated Cannon Bros. Gas & Oil in Dillsboro.

Our father Wade served as Mayor of Dillsboro from 1976 until 2001. Although no one applied for the position his friends and neighbors wrote his name in and he stepped up to the position. He was considered one of North Carolina's longest running mayors. As mayor, his responsibilities were many and the pay was slim to none. But he loved his town and wanted to make a difference in the lives of his neighbors.

One of his accomplishments was in securing a small amount of funding for the town through a Tennessee Valley Authority grant, called the Small Town Facelift. The grant was slim but it came with some expert advice from the TVA and he and other business owners began using some of the suggested ideas to make updates and repairs that would be aesthetically pleasing to promote the businesses of Dillsboro. This turned out to be very beneficial to the town's future.

He was also instrumental in promoting and advocating for the Smokey Mountain Railroad to come to town, which generated much needed business income and brought in tourism to both Dillsboro and Sylva. Tourism and trade flourished under his leadership and people from all over the country visited our tiny town to shop, dine and take a train ride.

Wade worked at the Cannon family business as an executive until it closed and then went to work for the new owners, the Tom Morgan Family until his retirement.

Our parents owned and rented the shops at Dogwood Crafters to local craftsmen and women at a price they could afford to insure that mountain ways could be preserved and passed on to the future generations of Western North Carolina. Local artisans sold mountain crafts and provided workshops to those with a desire to learn the old ways. The quaint shopping experiences and eateries were, and still are vacation destinations for people from every walk of life.

Wade was a member of the Rotary Club, and both he and Becky served on the board of the Jackson County Savings and Loan. Becky followed in her mother's footsteps and became a member of the Eastern Star and several other women's organizations in the county geared towards projects and fund raising for specific needs within the county. They were active members of the First United Methodist Church in Sylva.

As you can see, the long history of their passion, dedication and involvement in Dillsboro prove their commitment and desire to always want the best for its residents and the tiny community they called their forever home. It would be such an honor to have the bridge dedicated in their names.

Sincerely,

Susan Wilson Owen and Walter Wilson

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is "Susan Wilson Owen" and the second is "Walter Wilson". Both are written in a cursive style.

Walter W. Wilson, Jr.  
O. Box 1913  
Wilmington, North Carolina. 28779

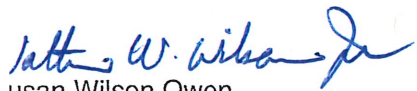
June 9, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

We are pleased to write regarding the proposed bridge naming for Wade and Becky Wilson. We, Susan Wilson Owen and Walter W. Wilson, Jr., agree to pay the \$2,000 administrative fee for the bridge naming project.

Please contact me should any questions arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan W. Wilson Owen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and 'W'.

Susan Wilson Owen  
Walter W. Wilson, Jr  
28-226-0353  
alterwilson6@hotmail.com



# JACKSON SAVINGS BANK, SSB

741 West Main Street  
Sylva, NC 28779  
(828) 586-2451

170 Highway 19 South  
Bryson City, NC 28713  
(828) 488-2100



February 5, 2021

Mr. Eric Boyette

Secretary North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1501 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

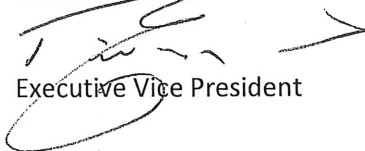
Dear Mr. Boyette,

For over sixty years Jackson Savings Bank, SSB has taken pride in a history of dedicated service to the people of Jackson and the surrounding counties of Western North Carolina. This service began in 1955 when a group of thirteen local business and professional people inspired by a common goal to invest in the people and future of the county. Integral to the growth and success of the bank can be attributed to Rebecca Wilson who served in various positions with the bank including President leading the bank to have a significant role in this growth, providing loans and savings accounts that have generated new and prospering homes and businesses throughout the region. Mrs. Wilson's service to the bank until she retired serves as an example of exemplary leadership.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors Jackson Savings Bank

Tim Evans



Executive Vice President



# JACKSON SAVINGS BANK, SSB

741 West Main Street  
Sylva, NC 28779  
(828) 586-2451

170 Highway 19 South  
Bryson City, NC 28713  
(828) 488-2100



February 5, 2021

Mr. Eric Boyette

Secretary North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1501 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Dear Mr. Boyette,

Wade Wilson served on the Board of Directors of Jackson Savings Bank, SSB from 2003 – 2015. Throughout his tenure working with the Board of Directors the bank achieved much growth and success in serving the needs of the residents of Jackson and Swain counties. Jackson Savings Bank began in 1955 when a group of thirteen local business and professional people wanted to invest in the citizens and future for the county. The work ethic that Wade Wilson demonstrated while working with the bank has contributed to the continued success of the bank to present day and served as a role model for future employees to follow.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

Tim Evans

Executive Vice President

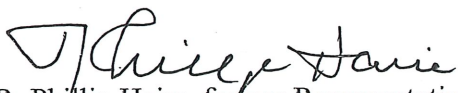
March 30, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

When I first moved to Jackson County after serving in the United States Air Force, I lived in Dillsboro for about 3 years. I was next door neighbors and became friends with Becky and Wade Wilson. My first law office was about four doors down from The Jackson Savings and Loan Association where Becky was one of the key employees. She had previously been employed with First Union Bank and was hired by Jackson Savings and Loan. During this time she was promoted to President of the Savings and Loan, served in that position until her retirement some 35 years later. A native of Jackson County she graduated from Women's College of the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. This gave her knowledge of business and finance and prepared her for a career in finance. Becky was a natural for the position because of her wonderful personality, ability to deal with people and finances. She was dedicated to helping facilitate loans for individuals and businesses of Jackson County.

Becky was a member of several women's organization including the Eastern Star. She was a member of Sylva First United Methodist Church where she and her husband Wade were very involved. Her husband was a native of Sylva and after his marriage to Becky, moved to Dillsboro. Wade quickly became involved in the town and began volunteering his time and services wherever needed. Later with the support of Becky, Wade served as Dillsboro town Mayor for 26 years. With Becky at his side, Wade was very active in community affairs and particularly in promoting business activities, whether a new business or an established business.

The present business environment stirred by the construction of the new bridge over Scott's Creek and The Great Smokies Railroad will encourage more growth and development in the town of Dillsboro. This new bridge significantly eases access to businesses in Dillsboro from the neighboring town of Sylva. To honor their labor and service to both the town of Sylva and Dillsboro, I highly recommend that the new bridge be named for Becky and Wade Wilson.



R. Phillip Haire, former Representative in the North Carolina General Assembly





PO Box 604 • Webster Street • Dillsboro, NC 28725  
828-586-2248 • [www.dogwoodcrafters.com](http://www.dogwoodcrafters.com)

February 4, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I would like to voice full support for the **Wade and Becky Wilson Bridge** in Dillsboro. I can think of no other name that would be more suitable.

Wade was mayor and full and dedicated leader to make Dillsboro what it is today, yesterday and tomorrow. Wade and Becky were local simple, down to earth people. Loved by one and all and they were active in every aspect of Dillsboro. It was their home.

In 1976 they believed in a small group of crafters wanting a place to sell their handmade crafts and gave them one of their buildings in Dillsboro rent free to get Dogwood Crafters started. They continued their support for many years by renting, building onto the cabins at our present location and then by selling the building to Dogwood. Their confidence in our abilities echoed their confidence in the growth of Dillsboro.

From the very beginning Wade and Becky loved our annual Easter Hat Parade and was the leader of the parade for many years. His coat and straw hat and don't forget that friendly engaging smile.

I am sure you will get other letters in support of this family but I wanted you to know they ARE Dillsboro – their very roots are here.

Sincerely, Brenda Anders

Feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions or get more information. This needs to happen. [brendaanders@frontier.com](mailto:brendaanders@frontier.com) 506-8331



Sylva Rotary Club  
PO Box 465  
Sylva, NC 28779

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January 22, 2021

Mr. Eric Boyette  
Secretary, N.C. Department of Transportation  
1501 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Dear Mr. Boyette,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Rotary Club of Sylva and its Board of Directors, in support of the proposed naming of the newly constructed bridge connecting Sylva and Dillsboro in honor of the late Walter "Wade" Wilson. As a lifelong resident, Wade Wilson dedicated his life to the people of Jackson County. He was a valued member of the Rotary Club of Sylva for many years and served as Club President in 1973-1974. During his tenure as a member of our Club, Wade worked alongside his fellow Rotarians to make a difference in our community.

Wade's life was dedicated to his country and to public service. He honorably served in the United States Navy and was a World War II veteran. He also spent 25 years serving as the mayor of Dillsboro, 1976-2001. Wade was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Sylva and served on local community boards.

Dedicating the bridge connecting Sylva and Dillsboro to be named after Walter "Wade" Wilson is fitting for someone who was a champion for the people of Jackson County. The bridge represents the area where he began his lifelong commitment to making positive changes in our community. Our motto in Rotary is "Service Above Self" and it would be hard to find a better representation of our motto than Wade Wilson.

Please accept our support for this proposed naming in honor of Walter "Wade" Wilson. If you need additional information let us know.

Sincerely,

Joe Rigdon, President  
Rotary Club of Sylva, NC

cc: Jackson County Board of Commissioners  
Mike Fox, Chairman N.C. Board of Transportation



# Road, Bridge, Ferry Naming or Designation Application

Date: **3/10/2021**

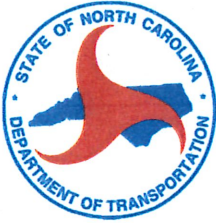
Information about Yourself	
<b>Your Name:</b> Walter Wilson & Susan Owen	<b>Phone Number:</b> 828-226-0353
<b>Mailing Address:</b> PO Box 1913 Sylva, NC 28779	<b>Alternate Phone Number:</b> 828-269-7411
<b>Relationship to Honoree:</b> Children	<b>Email Address:</b> She.wilson@hotmail.com

Information about What You Want to Have Named	
<b>Do You Wish to Name/Designate a Road, Bridge or Ferry?</b> <i>Bridge</i>	
<p><b>If a road or bridge, is it currently under construction?</b>  <i>In order for a road or bridge to be named in honor of an individual, that road or bridge must be already constructed, or within 3 months of its expected construction completion date. (See Section III. B. in the Honorary Designations of State Transportation Assets Policy)</i></p>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>County:</b> <i>Jackson</i>	<b>Route:</b> <i>Business 23</i>
<p><b>Description:</b> <i>If a road request, please include preferred section (Point A to Point B), and if a bridge request, please include what the bridge crosses. For road requests, the distance of the proposed dedication should be 5 miles or less. Law enforcement officers will be honored with bridge dedications in lieu of highways. Also indicate if you would like to name (changes addresses) or designate (honorary title) the facility – designations are most common (See Section II and III. in Policy)</i></p> <p>Bridge crosses Scotts Creek and Great Smokey Mountain Railroad. Bridge replacement on Business 23 in Dillsboro, NC.</p>	



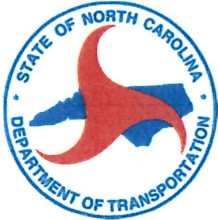
# Road, Bridge, Ferry Naming or Designation Application

Information about the Honoree (Person for whom the Road, Bridge or Ferry Naming or Designation Request is being made)	
Honoree's Name: Wade & Becky Wilson	
1. <b>If approved, what is the preferred name you would like to have on the sign?</b> <i>Names can include one title, one given name and initial, a surname, and a suffix. (See Section II. B. in Policy) "Memorial" is no longer included on signs.</i>	Wade & Becky Wilson
2. <b>Is the honoree living or deceased?</b> <i>If deceased, please provide date of death: To qualify for a road, bridge, or ferry naming or designation, an honoree must be either living, or be deceased longer than one year but less than 75 years. (See Section II. A. in Policy)</i>	<b>deceased</b>  <b>2/7/2015</b>
3. <b>Is the honoree currently serving or seeking a term as an elected official?</b>  <b>If so, please indicate what kind of office.</b> <i>To qualify for a road, bridge, or ferry naming or designation, an honoree must not be currently seeking or serving a term as a federal, state, or local elected official. (See Section II. A. of Policy)</i>	<b>not currently serving or seeking a term as an elected official</b>  Select the office.
4. <b>Is the honoree currently a North Carolina resident?</b>  <b>If no, please provide dates when the honoree was a North Carolina resident.</b> <i>To qualify for a road, bridge, or ferry naming or designation, an honoree must be or have been a North Carolina resident. (See Section II. A. in Policy)</i>	<b>No</b>  <b>10/18/1926 - 2/7/2015</b>



# Road, Bridge, Ferry Naming or Designation Application

Information about the Honoree (Person for whom the Road, Bridge or Ferry Naming or Designation Request is being made)	
<p>5. <b>Has the honoree made notable local, state, and/or national contributions and/or had significant accomplishments?</b>  <i>(See Section II. A. in Policy) Later, you will be required to list these.</i></p>	Yes
<p>6. <b>Does the honoree already have a state-owned road, bridge, or ferry named or designated for him or her?</b>  <i>To qualify for a road, bridge, or ferry designation, an honoree must not already have a state-owned road, bridge, or ferry designated for him or her. (See Section II. E. in Policy)</i></p>	No
<p>7. <b>Is the honoree a law enforcement officer or first responder killed in the line of duty?</b>  <i>Municipal officials, employees, and law enforcement officers (including those killed in the line of duty) should be recognized with a municipally owned bridge, if available and/or feasible (See Section II. B. in Policy)</i></p> <p><b>If you are requesting a state-owned bridge be named for a local law enforcement officer or first responder, please describe what the circumstances that justify the exception.</b></p>	No  NA
<p>8. <b>Is the honorary designation being requested on the basis of the individual's military service?</b></p> <p><b>If yes, which valorous combat decoration has the honoree received?</b>  <i>Verification of the award will be required at the time the resolution is submitted. Only recipients of the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross are eligible for a road or bridge naming / designation based on military combat service (See Section II. A. of Policy). (Other military personnel are honored by the 1300+ mile Blue Star Memorial Highway Network across North Carolina, See Section V. of Policy.)</i></p>	No  Choose an item.



# Road, Bridge, Ferry Naming or Designation Application

Information about the Honoree (Person for whom the Road, Bridge or Ferry Naming or Designation Request is being made)	
<p>and Dillsboro in their memory. Sincerely, Susan Owen and Walter Wilson, Children of Wade and Becky Wilson</p> <p><i>Susan W. Owen - Walter Wilson</i></p>	
Support for Proposed Road/Bridge/Ferry Naming	
<p>1. Does the proposed naming / designation have strong local support?  <i>Requested naming must have strong local support. Unanimous resolutions from the local governments with jurisdiction, passed in a public forum, will be required. (See Section II. A. in Policy) At a later stage of the review process, you will need to provide at least three letters of recommendation from civic, service, or business organizations that demonstrate this support. (See Section IV. B. in Policy)</i></p>	Yes
<p>2. Does the family of the honoree support the proposed naming / designation?  <i>The family must support the proposed naming. (See Section II. A. &amp; Section IV. E. in Policy)</i></p>	Yes
<p>3. Has a source of the \$2000 administrative fee for the sign been identified?  <i>The requesting party or local government is responsible for \$2000 towards the cost of the signs. The local government or designee must participate by paying an administrative fee of \$2000. (See Section IV. G. in Policy)</i></p>	Yes

When complete, this form should be emailed to the Road, Bridge or Ferry Naming Committee Service account at [roadnaming@ncdot.gov](mailto:roadnaming@ncdot.gov). After reviewing your form, NCDOT staff will contact you to discuss next steps.



# Honorary Designation for State Roads, Bridges and Ferries Character Certification Form

## Honorary Designation for State Roads, Bridges and Ferries Character Certification by Town/County Official

Full Name of Individual the Honorary Designation is being requested for: *Wade and Rebecca Wilson*

Character Certification Reference - (to be completed by local town/county official)

1. Are you aware of any criminal charges pending against the individual or if they have ever been convicted of any crime anywhere, including in federal, state, local, military and tribal courts? If yes, please explain.

*No.*

2. Do you know if the individual has ever been charged with a criminal act? If yes, please explain.

*Not to my knowledge.*

3. Are you aware of any controversial matter in which the individual has been involved? If yes, please explain.

*Not to my knowledge.*

4. Is there any information regarding the character of the individual that you feel is pertinent? If yes, please explain.

*Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were outstanding citizens and worked tirelessly for the town of Dillsboro. Mr. Wilson served as Alderman and Mayor and Mrs. Wilson worked to preserve*



# Honorary Designation for State Roads, Bridges and Ferries Character Certification Form

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*Not to my knowledge.*

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*Not to my knowledge.*

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*Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were outstanding citizens and worked tirelessly for the town of Dillsboro. Mr. Wilson served as Alderman and Mayor and Mrs. Wilson worked to preserve*