



A RESOLUTION OF THE NAGS HEAD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN SUPPORT OF NAMING THE PEA ISLAND BRIDGE IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN RICHARD ETHERIDGE

WHEREAS, the Town of Nags Head Board of Commissioners desires to have the North Carolina Department of Transportation name the new Pea Island Bridge in honor of Captain Richard Etheridge, a remarkable man from Dare County; AND

WHEREAS, the story of Captain Etheridge is a compelling one having been born a slave who grew up to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War and who would later become the first African-American to command a Life-Saving station; AND

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Captain Etheridge, the Pea Island Life-Saving Station had a crew that consisted of all African-Americans who are credited with bravely saving lives off the shores of the Outer Banks; AND

WHEREAS, Captain Etheridge was highly respected throughout the United States Life-Saving Service for the rigorous life-saving drills that he developed, which earned the Pea Island Station an exemplary reputation; AND

WHEREAS, in addition to naming a Coast Guard Cutter in his honor, the United States Coast Guard has awarded Captain Etheridge and his crew the Gold Lifesaving Medal for their valiant and brave rescue of those on board the schooner E. S. Newman during a hurricane; AND

WHEREAS, the Town of Nags Head Board of Commissioners believes that naming the Pea Island Bridge in honor of Captain Etheridge is a fitting tribute to a man who overcame slavery, war, and racism to lead the finest Life-Saving Station in the nation, where he and his African-American crew saved lives at a place that is in close physical proximity to the site of the Pea Island Bridge.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Nags Head Board of Commissioners hereby formally requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation name the Pea Island Bridge in honor of Captain Richard Etheridge as a lasting tribute to his dedication and service.

Adopted this 5th day of April 2017.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert C. Edwards".

Robert C. Edwards, Mayor
Town of Nags Head

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn F. Morris".
Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk