

**Remarks for Chief Deputy Secretary Nick Tennyson
Capt. Roy Huskey and Sgt. Owen Messersmith
Bridge Dedication Ceremony
Monday, June 9, 2014**

- Good afternoon, everyone.
- I am honored to join you today as we pay tribute to 2 exceptional men who made the ultimate sacrifice to serve and protect others.
- As you've heard from the other speakers here today, Captain Huskey and Sergeant Messersmith were dedicated and respected members of this community.
- The fact that so many of us are gathered here today—35 years almost to the day after their tragic passing—is a real testament to the character of these two men and the enduring legacy they left behind.
- I think we too often take for granted the dangers law enforcement officers face every day.
- They live out a kind of bravery that many of us cannot even fathom -- a willingness to lay down their own lives for the sake of others.
- And I want to take a minute to thank all the law enforcement officers in attendance today for all you do to help keep us safe.
- Captain Huskey and Sergeant Messersmith were the ultimate public servants, giving their lives for their community.

- We are proud to honor them for their service and sacrifice today by officially naming the bridge along U.S. 74 over Oakland Road as the *Captain Roy Huskey Bridge*, and the bridge along U.S. 74 at Bethany Church Road as the *Sergeant Owen Messersmith Bridge*.
- Naming a road or bridge is the highest honor the North Carolina Department of Transportation can bestow on an individual.
- The department typically reserves dedication of its bridges to public servants who have fallen in the line of duty.
- It is our hope that these bridges will serve as a reminder of the sacrifice these men gave in service to the residents of Rutherford County.
- It is especially fitting that we are dedicating these bridges along U.S. 74 in their honor, because this route is so important to this region.
- Each day, 13,000 vehicles travel this stretch of highway and from now on, everyone who passes these signs will be reminded of the valor of both these men.
- The Rutherford County Board of Commissioners requested these designations, and the N.C. Board of Transportation approved them on January 9.
- Thank you to everyone who played a role in making these important tributes a reality.

Sign Presentation

- At this time, I would like to ask the families of Captain Huskey and Sergeant Messersmith to come forward.

(They join you at the podium).

- I' d like to present you with these replica signs.

(Present signs. Families speak).

- Thank you.

(Families return to their seats).

- Thank you again for joining us today to honor Captain Huskey and Sergeant Messersmith.