

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81**

2 (By Delegate Talbott)

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6 Requesting County Route 26, beginning from the intersection with
7 State Route 15 then proceeding through 26/1 to the Randolph
8 County line, be named the "Eli 'Rimfire' Hamrick Trail."

9 WHEREAS, Eli "Rimfire" Hamrick was born in Webster County on
10 March 28, 1868, and died in his native county on April 1, 1954, and
11 his actions, love for the mountain ways and devotion to wildlife
12 made him admired as a humble son of the hills and a legendary
13 figure in Webster County; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1913, Eli "Rimfire" Hamrick was employed as a
15 yard-man at the Webster Springs Hotel by owner, John T. McGraw, a
16 Democratic National Committeeman and rigorous political figure of
17 the day, and "Rimfire" had the task of preparing the chickens for
18 meals at the hotel and was asked by hotel manager, James Wooddell,
19 how he killed the chickens. Eli Hamrick answered the hotel
20 manager's question by stating "with my Rimfire Rifle, by God," and
21 was thereafter known as "Rimfire". "Rimfire" was an expert in word
22 lore and a tenderhearted man who loved wildflowers and animals.
23 "Rimfire" opened a jewelry, watch repair and gun shop in the Town
24 of Addison (Webster Springs) in 1910 and at times also worked as a

1 game warden, look-out tower keeper, fire warden and handyman.
2 "Rimfire" married at age 52 and spent his honeymoon at the Turkey
3 Creek Fire Tower, where he was employed as a keeper at the time;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, 1924 presidential candidate, John W. Davis, asked "Who
6 was 'Rimfire' to have had the face as sad as Lincoln's?" The six-
7 foot three-inch mountaineer was a true son of the hills, posed for
8 the statues of the Mountaineer in Charleston, located on the East
9 Lawn of the Capitol and also in Washington, D.C. and was named the
10 "Typical Mountaineer". In 1932, "Rimfire" took his first and only
11 venture into politics running on the Republican ticket for the
12 State Senate supported by West Virginians who believed they had a
13 winner in the "Typical Mountaineer" who had won fame as the model
14 for the statue at the West Virginia State Capitol and using the
15 campaign slogan "You put me at the Capitol in bronze, now send me
16 there in person"; and

17 WHEREAS, In all that has been written and said of Eli "Rimfire"
18 Hamrick, it is clear that he was a gentleman, and the story of the
19 "honorable man of the hills" is a bit of West Virginia history
20 worth preserving; therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

22 That the Division of Highways is hereby requested that County
23 Route 26, beginning from the intersection with State Route 15 then
24 proceeding through 26/1 to the Randolph County line, be named the

1 "Eli 'Rimfire' Hamrick Trail"; and, be it

2 *Further Resolved*, That the Commissioner of the Division of
3 Highways is hereby requested to cause to be fabricated signs to be
4 erected at each entryway of the road, containing bold and prominent
5 letters proclaiming the road to be named the "Eli 'Rimfire' Hamrick
6 Trail"; and, be it

7 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates
8 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of
9 the Division of Highways and the family of Eli 'Rimfire' Hamrick.