

1 protruding above the surface; and

2 WHEREAS, Some thirty minutes before, the baby's mother, Sylvia
3 Albright, and older brother, Steven Albright, had been desperately
4 running from the wall of waste water hurtling towards them when
5 Sylvia tried to throw her baby to higher ground just as the flood
6 waters overtook them; and

7 WHEREAS, Sadly, Sylvia Albright and Steven Albright perished in
8 the flood that day, and the baby was last seen floating in the
9 swirling waters; and

10 WHEREAS, As residents later combed the valley for survivors,
11 the baby's seemingly lifeless body was found buried in the muck
12 with severe bruises and injuries that rendered him nearly
13 unrecognizable; and

14 WHEREAS, The baby gasped for air when the thick mud was cleared
15 from his mouth, and his rescuers realized that the baby had
16 miraculously survived the flood and his subsequent submersion in
17 the muck for at least twenty to thirty minutes; and

18 WHEREAS, As the baby clung to life, he was taken to the
19 hospital where doctors treated his injuries, but held out little
20 hope for his survival; and

21 WHEREAS, With the loving care of his father, Robert Albright,
22 who stayed at his side day and night, the baby defied all odds and
23 miraculously recovered; and

24 WHEREAS, That baby, Kerry Lee Albright, henceforth became known

1 as the "Miracle Baby of the Buffalo Creek Flood"; and

2 WHEREAS, Robert Albright was working in an area coal mine when
3 the flood took the life of his wife and elder son and destroyed his
4 home, but he never returned after that fateful day; and

5 WHEREAS, Kerry's survival gave Robert a purpose in life and
6 helped him to cope with the devastating losses he had suffered, and
7 Robert devoted himself to nurturing the fragile young life who had
8 been spared from the flood; and

9 WHEREAS, Robert Albright had black lung from twenty-five years
10 underground in the mines, and he now took a disability retirement
11 to assume the full-time role of single father and caregiver to his
12 baby son - learning to cook, clean and sew, to bathe little Kerry
13 and to rock him to sleep; and

14 WHEREAS, Robert and Kerry lived several years in a trailer
15 provided by the federal government to flood victims until Robert
16 was able to rebuild on the site of their former home; and

17 WHEREAS, As Kerry grew up, Robert was determined to provide a
18 better life for his son and encouraged him to follow his dreams,
19 often telling Kerry "you can do whatever you want to do and be
20 whatever you want to be"; and

21 WHEREAS, When Kerry showed an interest and talent for
22 performing, Robert arranged for private dance and voice lessons for
23 him; and

24 WHEREAS, When Kerry graduated from high school, he attended

1 Marshall University as a theater major, and then began a twenty
2 year career in musical theater that has taken him around the world
3 performing as a singer and dancer; and

4 WHEREAS, In the years after he moved away, Kerry often returned
5 home to visit his father who had nurtured him and encouraged him to
6 pursue his dreams; and

7 WHEREAS, When Robert Albright died in 2000 of lung cancer and
8 black lung, Kerry's final words to his devoted father were, "I love
9 you"; and

10 WHEREAS, Kerry currently resides in Brooklyn, New York, where
11 he appreciates his life, and lives with a positive and upbeat
12 presence about him that reflects his many years performing in
13 musical theater; and

14 WHEREAS, The January 2013 edition of Reader's Digest featured
15 an article about Kerry's miraculous story of survival, and now
16 millions of readers are learning about the "Miracle Baby of the
17 Buffalo Creek Flood" for the first time; and

18 WHEREAS, It is only fitting that a section of Buffalo Creek
19 Road be named for Kerry Albright to celebrate the miracle of life
20 that he represents, and that by honoring Kerry, we also honor his
21 father, Robert Albright, who lovingly nurtured his "miracle baby"
22 into the adult that Kerry has become; therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

24 That the Division of Highways is requested to name a section

1 of County Route 16, known as the Buffalo Creek Road, running
2 through the unincorporated community of Lorado, Logan County, West
3 Virginia, from the Lorado highway marker on the eastern edge of the
4 community to the Lorado highway marker on the western edge of the
5 community, the "Kerry Albright Road"; and, be it

6 *Further Resolved,* That the Division of Highways is requested
7 to have made, and be placed, signs identifying the highway as the
8 "Kerry Albright Road"; and, be it

9 ~~*Further Resolved,* That Division of Highways is requested to~~
10 ~~include on the signs an additional inscription identifying Kerry~~
11 ~~Albright as the "Miracle Baby of the Buffalo Creek Flood"; and, be~~
12 ~~it~~

13 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates is
14 requested to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the
15 Secretary of Transportation and to Kerry Albright.