

Blue Ridge Garden Club

Resolution to Preserve the Natural Bridge of Virginia

Whereas, the Natural Bridge of Virginia was formed by the forces of nature and been revered and admired by Americans throughout history, from the native Monacan Indian Nation to the present day inhabitants of Rockbridge County and the Cities of Lexington and Buena Vista, and by visitors from every corner of the Nation and the world; and,

Whereas, the Bridge was owned by Founding Father and President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, from 1774 until his death on July 4th, 1826; and,

Whereas, President Jefferson considered his stewardship of the Bridge “a public trust,” stating that the Bridge should be forever be available for public access; and,

Whereas, the Bridge is considered both a literal and symbolic image of the westward expansion of the United States of America; and

Whereas, tourists have come from around the world to admire Jefferson’s ‘sublime’ Natural Bridge from the 1700’s to the present day; and

Whereas, as a result of its historical significance, the Bridge has been designated as a National Historic Landmark, a Virginia Historic Landmark, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and,

Whereas, the County of Rockbridge was named in honor of this natural and historic treasure; and,

Whereas, the popularity of the Bridge as a destination for tourists and travelers provides significant economic opportunity to the entire region; and,

Whereas, our Nation has been exceptionally fortunate that, subsequent to Jefferson’s ownership of the Bridge, a succession of owners has honored his vision by allowing public access and enjoyment of the natural splendor of the Bridge; and

Whereas, the Bridge and its surrounding properties are currently being marketed for public auction in separate parcels;

Now therefore be it resolved, that in recognition of the important need to protect and conserve the historic and natural resources of the Natural Bridge of Virginia, the Blue Ridge Garden Club encourages leaders of our Community, State, and Nation to pursue every possible avenue, including the establishment of a public park, to ensure that the Natural Bridge of Virginia be forever preserved for the enjoyment of the citizens of, and visitors to, the United States of America.

Adopted this 8th Day of October, 2013.

Signed:



Jane Brooke, President
Blue Ridge Garden Club