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# DAN RAMOS

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State Representative  
56<sup>th</sup> House District

**House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee**

House Bill 579 Testimony  
Representative Dan Ramos  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Craig, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 579, Admiral Ernest J. King day.

In the last General Assembly, I introduced this bill near the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, desiring to honor one of the architects of that victory, a man who in many ways helped to save the world from fascism and tyranny, Ohio's own Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King. I introduced this again to continue to honor his legacy.

Admiral King graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1901, served in the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Revolution, World War I and World War II.

He is most known for his service during World War II. As the war was beginning, King served as Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet in the Fall of 1940, and was promoted to Admiral in February of 1941. 23 days after the Empire of Japan bombed Pearl on December 7, 1941, King was appointed by President Roosevelt to the rank of Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, on December 30<sup>th</sup>. There, he was tasked with turning the decimated fleet into the largest and most powerful Navy the world had ever seen. On March 18, 1942, he was also appointed Chief of Naval Operations, becoming the only sailor in American History to hold the joint title of Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations (COMINCH-CNO).

On December 17, 1944, Ernest King was appointed to the rank of Fleet Admiral (5 Stars), only the second sailor to ever achieve this rank.

Admiral King's accomplishments are many throughout his storied career spanning the entire first half of the Twentieth Century. I have mentioned some of those that he was the only Ohioan or only American to accomplish. Admiral King is still the highest ranking serviceman from any branch to come from the state of Ohio. Although we have enshrined Admiral King in the Veteran's Hall of Fame for his service to our community after retirement, and the City of Lorain has honored him in various ways (school, VFW post, memorials, etc.) the State of Ohio to the best of my knowledge has never honored him for his service while in the Navy.

I am proud to say The Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Richard V. Spencer, also supports this legislation. In the Secretary's words, "Not only was Admiral King one of Ohio's favorite sons, but he was also one of our Navy's most capable leaders. Having served at sea on destroyers, submarines, and battleships, and later earning his "wings of gold" as a Naval Aviator, Admiral King demonstrated mastery of the Navy's core capabilities – capabilities which remain vital to our Navy today." I have attached Secretary Spencer's letter of support to my testimony.

I believe it is time for Ohio to finally honor one of its favorite sons and name a day in honor of this Republican War Hero.

Thank you for your consideration, I welcome any questions on this bill.