



Terry A. Johnson
State Representative, District 90
Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 311
September 20, 2017
Before the House Transportation Committee

Thank you Chairman Green, Vice Chairman Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee for taking the time to hear House Bill 311, a bill to designate a portion of State Route 348 in Scioto County as the “Roy Rogers Happy Trails Highway.”

During his early years, Roy Rogers and his family lived on a farm located on Duck Run in Lucasville. It was during this time that his father gave him a horse, on which he learned the basics of horsemanship. For entertainment, Roy and his family would invite neighbors over for square dances. Roy would sing, play the mandolin, and call the square dances. Many of the talents that he would use later in his life were developed on the farm.

Rogers is known for his large character both on and off the screen. He had a national club – The Roy Rogers Riders Club – that was open to children in the 1940s. Any child that sent Rogers his/her name and address would be welcomed into the club with a Rogersgram that arrived by Trigger Express. Rogers would send children a copy of the club rules, which were:

- Be neat and clean.
- Be courteous and polite.
- Always obey your parents.
- Protect the weak and help them.
- Be brave but never take chances.
- Study hard and learn all you can.
- Be kind to animals and take care of them.
- Eat all your food and never waste any.
- Love God and go to Sunday school regularly.
- Always respect our flag and our country.

Turn on the TV today and which if any of these things are lifted up for our children? Rogers provided a moral compass for his fans. He had strong character and the residents of Southern Ohio still recognize and uphold that character today. Every year the Roy Rogers festival honors residents who are exemplifying Roy's ideals and setting an example for others. Nearly 20 years after his death, Rogers is still inspiring a community that faces many trials.

Designating a portion of 348 to honor Roy will serve as a daily reminder to the residents of the values he upheld. Chairman Green and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak about House Bill 311 today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.