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#### Testimony-HB 324

I would first like to express my gratitude to State Representatives Michael Ashford and Michael Sheehy, Chairman Green, Vice Chairman Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee for considering House Bill 324 which would designate a portion of Interstate Route 75 in Lucas County as the "Toledo Firefighters J. Dickman and S. Machcinski Memorial Highway."

James Dickman, Jamie, like many of us, grew up wanting to be a fire fighter. Following high school he attended EHOVE Fire School and fulfilled his dream, joining Perkins Township Fire Department where he served the citizens in and around Sandusky, Ohio. Jamie pursued fire education and technical training with the same passion as he performed his job, even becoming a fire service instructor so he could share his passion with others. In 2013, Jamie joined the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, and realized yet another dream: working in a major municipal fire department. Jamie's family has shared that he was never happier with his work than when he was with Toledo Fire and his brotherhood of firefighters.

Jamie was active in his church, The Chapel. He was very involved in the music ministry, combining his love of music and his faith, enthusiastically sharing them both with others. Following a mission trip to Haiti, Jamie developed an even more profound appreciation for the blessings we have in our country and those he had in his personal life.

Jamie was not only dedicated to the citizens he served and his fellow firefighters, he was a devoted husband to Jamie N., and a father to Paige and Grant, a son and a brother, friend to so many, and he made the world...a better place.

Stephen Machcinski, Steve, also felt he had realized his dream when he became a Toledo Firefighter in 1998. There was nothing he enjoyed more than the comradery around the firehouse, or off-duty. Steve was not only an avid cook, he was also more than willing to offer constructive criticism of others' cooking. Steve pursued his education and training as well, beyond the Toledo Fire Academy, graduating from Owens Community College with a degree in Fire Science.

Steve loved his sports and loved the Browns, the Tigers, and especially the Toledo Mudhens. Steve rarely missed an opening day and could always be found enjoying home games with friends on his off time. He loved fishing and the Fourth of July. Steve was known for his appreciation of tremendous firework displays, which he may or may not have been the originator of.

Steve also loved his niece and nephew, Grace and Brandon and cherished his time with them, especially trick or treating on Halloween. Steve was not only a loving uncle, but a son, a brother, brother-in-law and a friend to so many.

On January 26, 2014, both Jamie and Steve made the ultimate sacrifice in an apartment fire while searching for the civilian occupants, who were reportedly trapped inside. Fire conditions within the apartment changed so rapidly and violently that Jamie and Steve were overwhelmed and their personal protective equipment was destroyed. Rescue intervention teams were immediately deployed, but their efforts were hampered by the intensity of the heat and flames. Many veteran firefighters stated it was the hottest fire they had ever encountered. Later it was learned that this fire was an arson fire,

intentionally set by the building's owner. The criminal justice system has rightfully placed the arsonist in prison for what may very well be the rest of his life. None the less, the lives of two firefighters who cared so much were lost as a consequence of the actions of one who cared so little.

Having a memorial highway designated in these firefighters' names would mean so much to Jamie's and Steve's families; to Paige and Grant, to Grace and Brandon, to so many friends, and to the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department. If House Bill 324 is passed and this designation made, it will stand as a daily reminder of the sacrifices made by Firefighters Dickman and Machcinski, of not only their unwavering courage and dedication, but that of firefighters throughout Ohio.

Thank you, one and all, from the bottom of my heart for the time and consideration you have had and will have in this matter.

Respectfully,S

Jeffrey Koenigseker, President

Toledo Fire Fighters IAFF Local 92