

Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. I come before you in support of House Bill 330, legislation that would designate a portion of State Route 91 in the City of Willoughby as the "Patrolman Jason Gresko Memorial Highway" in honor of the late Jason Gresko, a Willoughby Police Officer. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

As previously stated by Chief Jack Beckwith, Patrolman Jason Gresko was a part-time police officer with the city of Willoughby Police Department. During Jason's service to our city, I was a patrolman, working the road and answering calls. I remember Jason as the guy who came in every Friday and Saturday night, looking to fulfill his dreams of being a police officer and serving the residents of the City of Willoughby. Jason always tried to get to every call and help out his fellow officers every chance he could. He was a smart and intelligent officer who always asked many, many questions in order to further enhance his skill set in this difficult profession. Along with his dedication to law enforcement, Jason was always able to joke around with all officers at the department and was extremely well liked by everyone he worked with.

On Friday September 21, 2012, at 9:35 PM, Patrolman Gresko was on duty, as was I, but in a different capacity. I had been re-assigned to the Detective Bureau and was processing evidence in our evidence room, just prior to going home at 10:00 PM. I will never forget hearing the radio call on Harmony Lane and that a police car was involved in a crash. As one of the first responders to the scene, it is unfortunately one memory that I will never be able to forget.

After tending to Jason with other officers and EMS personnel, my first phone call was to Chief Beckwith. Another memory that I unfortunately will not be able to forget. That phone call to the Chief, was the beginning of one of the most challenging times in my career. Although I would trade those times to have Jason here with us today if I could, I was humbled to be chosen to coordinate all of the funeral arrangements and subsequent memorials in Jason's memory.

During the following days and weeks of Jason's death, I met many members of Jason's family and close friends. I was introduced to his parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and his two girls, Sandra and Olivia. They all showed me the side of Jason outside of the Willoughby Police Department. They showed me that he was a kind person, who loved his family more than anything. They showed me that he loved law enforcement and that he loved serving the residents of Willoughby. Most importantly they showed me their love and support for him as a Police Officer.

As you can see, I will never forget Jason or that terrible night which affected the lives of so many people. From his family, to the Willoughby Police Department, to the residents of Willoughby and to all of those in the law enforcement community. Jason's memory can never be forgotten, which is why I stand here before all of you today, in support of House Bill 330, which would name State Route 91 in the City of Willoughby. the "Patrolman Jason Gresko Memorial Highway"

Thank for allowing me to testify this morning in support of House Bill 330, and I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.



Lieutenant Matthew Tartaglia
Willoughby Police Department