

Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee.

I would like to start by saying thank you for the privilege of speaking in front of you today and thank you to Rep. Kent Smith and Rep. John Rogers for bringing this legislation forward.

My name is Bill Mastroianni and I am the Director of Operations for the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters (OAPFF)

When the OAPFF and then Senator Tom Patton started the journey for what would ultimately be SB 27, The Michael Louis Palumbo Jr. Act a few years ago, Michael's name was not attached. Michael had not been diagnosed with his occupational brain cancer yet.

On Sunday, August 30th, 2015, Michael had his first seizure and was diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiforme shortly after. Michael never worked another shift for the Beachwood Fire Department after August 30th. However, Michael didn't quit working or carrying out his oath of Serving and Protecting. Michael did this till the day he passed and continues to serve and protect daily with the legacy he left not only with his wife and children, but with the citizens of Beachwood and the entire firefighting profession. Michael's passion and commitment to the fire service will live on an transcend generations of firefighters to come. Children who aren't even born yet that will become firefighters will be protected for what Michael and his family fought for, Cancer Presumption for Ohio's Firefighters.

When Michael was diagnosed, he never asked "Why me?" He asked how and what? How can I help protect the greatest profession in the world and what can I do to spread awareness and educate not only Ohio's Bravest, but all firefighters across our nation.

Michael never gave up after being diagnosed, just the opposite. Michael made it his mission to help educate not only our profession, but the general public, our elected officials and many others while becoming the face and namesake of SB 27. Michael helped spread awareness of this dreaded occupational disease. What firefighters face daily helping others has a lasting effect not only on our health, but on our families as well.

We use words in the fire service like Honor, Courage and Sacrifice. Michael exemplified all of these. Michael knew it was an honor to put on the uniform, he showed courage everyday showing up to work knowing what he may be called to do. This is the highest level of sacrifice, to give up something that is valuable to you in order to help another person. This is what Michael did everyday. Michael sacrificed his life for others. The ultimate act of selflessness, courage, and honor.

For these reasons, I stand before you today asking for passage of House Bill 83, The renaming of a portion of Interstate 271 in Beachwood, out of committee.

Michael's legacy and imprint he left on me, his family and his brother and sister firefighters will live on forever. Renaming this highway It is not only the right thing to do, but the admirable thing to do, to pay honor and respect to a man who made the supreme sacrifice.

I will end with this, a quote from Theodore Roosevelt:

“The credit belongs to those who are actually in the arena, who strive valiantly; who know the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and SPEND THEMSELVES IN A WORTHY CAUSE.

This is what Michael Louis Palumbo Jr. did everyday. He spent himself in a worthy cause...

Thank you for your time, it was an honor to speak in front of you today.