

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

Thank you for allowing me to be here and speak to you today regarding the possible renaming of I -271 in the City of Beachwood after my late husband, Michael Louis Palumbo, Jr.

When I was approached with this proposal at Mikes funeral, I was surprised and overwhelmed. I never imagined him to be honored in this way. I don't think he would of ever imagined this either. Since then, I have spent time reflecting on what this would mean to him, his family and the communities in which he served.

Mike was a humble man. He agreed to certain honors at his funeral, not for himself, but for his children's sake. I think he would view this in the same way. I promised to never forget him and keep his memory alive for our children. We talked about the future and being grandparents. One day our children could bring their children to see this public memorial. He is always on our minds and greatly missed. We could never forget him.

This renaming isn't just about bringing honor to him and his family. Mike sacrificed his and his family's privacy to help make known, to the public and his fellow firefighters, the risk of cancer in their occupation. As a result, Ohio Firefighters are making changes to protect themselves and can more easily seek compensation and care through Ohio BWC.

But, this renaming isn't just about how he helped to make changes in the fire service and Ohio law. Since Mike passed, many have shared their stories of their memories of Mike. Some spoke of his faith, others spoke of our example as a family and our happy marriage. Many had a story to tell about how he touched their lives in some way. But, life goes on. The hole in their lives isn't as gaping as it is for his loved ones.

This memorial would remind them not of just a name of a man who served the community and did good for his fellow firefighters. It would remind them of a man that loved his job, but loved his family more. A man who was a proud, loving and present father. A man who was a faithful, loving husband. A man who had great faith in God. A man who was a friend to many. A man who had strength, courage and hope. It would remind the community of a man who lived his life the way all men should. The community should be proud of him and the example he was to others.

He was a great man, and this renaming would be a great honor.

Thank you for your time.