

December 6, 2017

Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, and Ranking Member Sheehy, thank you for permitting the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 375 which would designate a memorial highway for Frank C. Watson.

Frank C. Watson passed away on August 3, 2017 at the age of 92. He was a lifelong resident of Canfield, a suburb of Youngstown, OH. A family man and community minded individual, his devotion to both led to a lifetime of accomplishments.

After answering his country's call by serving in the U.S. Navy (Pacific Theatre) from 1943-1946, Frank graduated from Youngstown College with a Bachelors of Engineering Degree, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, Class of 1949. Longtime friend, the late Senator Harry Meshel, was a classmate of Franks.

Throughout his life, Frank was the driving force behind many academic and athletic endeavors at Youngstown State University.

His "get involved" attitude led him to the Presidency of The Youngstown Welding and Engineering Company, a post he held from 1959 to 1988. He was a member of the American Society of Naval Engineers and a member of the American Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

Frank served on the boards of banks, Ohio Edison Company, Youngstown State University, the local school board, hospital, and YMCA. He is a past president of The Youngstown Area Chamber of Commerce.

One of Frank's greatest dreams was realized when he served as the Campaign General Chairman of the YSU All Sports Complex – a committee which raised \$16 million for the athletic facilities at the university in the late 1970's. In addition to the Sports Complex, he and his wife Norma have contributed over \$3 million toward the Recreation Center on the YSU Campus, the indoor training facility appropriately named the W.A.T.T.S. – Watson and Tressel Training Site, and most recently the Frank and Norma Watson Student Success Center at YSU.

These many transformational facilities line the highway that we hope one day will memorialize his name.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 375.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Tressel
Daughter of Frank C. Watson