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

I would like to begin by acknowledging you for allowing me the privilege of speaking in front of you today and thank you to Rep. Brigid Kelly and Rep. Alicia Reece for bringing this legislation forward.

I would also like to thank Jessica Kim, Officer Sonny Kim's wife and their children for allowing me to speak on their behalf today and extend their appreciation to each of you for considering this honor. They express their apologies for not being able to attend but want everyone to know that this is a tremendous honor and it is appreciate deeply.

My name is John Keuffer and I am the Executive Director for Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center; as well as, a member of the Cincinnati Police Clergy team. I am here to not only talk about a hero fallen officer, I'm here to talk about a father, husband, teacher, brother, son and a friend.

I have the great honor of knowing Sonny in several capacities. He was my first friend on my first day of college in Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. Sonny became a police officer and then I did some time later. Sonny worked a beat next to mine.

When I left law enforcement, Sonny remained a friend and transitioned to a volunteer for a youth program I began called Teen Response. For over 31 years our friendship grew and while he worked a job keeping our community safe; he volunteered with me to help deter and change the course of many lives in the inner city communities of Cincinnati.

Sonny taught karate as part of his school; but also taught karate from at risk youth and gang involved youth in our effort to try to intercede in the lives of those going down the wrong path. Sonny never asked for any compensation for these off duty activities.

Sonny had a big heart in that tiny frame. He always had a smile and always wanted the best for those around him. Our karate program was part of a Federal Weed & Seed program and it was recognized for outstanding work and its uniqueness.

Most of my stories are about Sonny the man. Sonny's career was law enforcement but he had a tremendous balance between his career and his life. For over 30 years he and I had lunch every 2 – 3 weeks and usually I was begging him to work with some troubled kid or asking him to help in some creative way to change a youth's life. He always did.

A testament to his character transcended even my knowledge of him. This was exemplified by the outpouring of the Greater Cincinnati community after his murder. The tremendous love and show of support for him and his family was beyond imagine, but it showed just how loved and vital he was to our community.

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We use the term 'hero' so randomly these days that it has lost its true meaning and value. However, when I think of Sonny and how he lived his life as well as how he spent his last earthly day, I can't think of another word to use.

It is not for me alone or for the family that I speak before you today. It is for a community that lost one of its truly great servants that I speak and ask for the passage of House Bill 347, out of committee.

Sonny's legacy and imprint he left on me, his family and the Greater Cincinnati community will be a lasting impression. Renaming this highway is the right thing to do. It's admirable, it's honorable, it's worthy and it's appropriate for a man such as Sonny and in return for the price he paid for us in his service to us.

This honor will demonstrate our communities' appreciation for his service and be a beacon to all who pass about true heroism.

Sonny spent himself in a worthy cause...

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