

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 350 Patrolman Dane L. Rowe Memorial Highway

I would like to thank Chairman Doug Green, Vice Chairman Dave Greenspan and Ranking Member Michael Sheehy; and members of the Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee along with Representative Herschel Graig and fellow co-sponsors today, for the opportunity to speak about House Bill 350, a proposal that would designate a portion of State Route 317 in Franklin County as the 'Patrolman Dane L. Rowe Memorial Highway'.

Dane L. Rowe was born on December 17, 1963 and was hired as a full time officer with the Madison Township Police Department on May 14, 1988 at the age of 24, after graduating from the Central Ohio Police Academy in February of 1988, where he was President of his class. Dane had also worked as a reserve officer for Perry Township. During his 5½ months with Madison Township, Patrolman Rowe worked as an advisor with the safety patrol in the Elementary Schools and participated in a number of community events, involving children as well as adults, receiving a number of appreciation letters not only from the community, but also from the Office of the Chief.

To this day, a number of children whom had contact with Dane, reflect back on how he had touched their lives, and they themselves becoming police officers showing their respect of him, one of which being employed with Madison Township.

Patrolman Rowe was a giant of a man, not only because of his physical stature, but because of his intellect, concern, and willingness to share with his fellow officers and to those citizens whom he served, with fair treatment and justice.

On November 4, 1988 at approximately 9:30 P.M., while directing traffic at an accident scene, Patrolman Rowe made the ultimate sacrifice. Patrolman Rowe was struck and killed by an automobile driving through the accident scene, and later died on November 5th 1988.

In Patrolman Rowe's very short career, he has left his mark on our police profession and a void that has remained forever. Patrolman Rowe was an officer that any department would have been proud of to call one of their own.

Dedicating a portion of State Route 317 between Gerling Road and Wingate Drive in Franklin County would stand as a small gesture of gratitude for Patrolman Rowe's love, compassion and the sacrifice he made in performing his duties to the public and in support of honoring his family.

In closing, I would like to read a short essay that was written by Patrolman Rowe, while he was in the Police Academy, that best describes his desire to become a police officer and exemplifies his character, all of which is deserving of this recognition.

Respectfully;
Gary McDonald

Why I Want To Become A Police Officer

Police officers hold a variety of different positions. They are keepers of the peace, the arbitrators, the helpful hand and the finders and keepers of the community.

I have chosen police work as my profession for a number of reasons. I enjoy working in the out-of-doors regardless of the weather; I like taking on new and exciting challenges and enjoy meeting and helping people. I also feel that holding a police officer's position is one of trust and reliability in providing assistance in a crucial time of need.

I have never been a person that enjoys sitting behind a desk and pushing a pencil all day. Though I realize there are a great deal of reports to fill out, there must be something happening to initiate those reports. I enjoy being able to work with my hands, as well as my knowledge in achieving success in my work.

I have found with little experience that I have accumulated, this position involves dealing with a variety of different circumstances. You may be sitting and running radar for two hours and the next six may involve a number of different runs. I enjoy the different situations and the variety of the activities that the police officer's role entails.

I also enjoy meeting new and different people. The fact that I might be able to make a difference not only in an individual's day but in their life is also very challenging to me. This is a thought not to be taken lightly but with much time and considerations.

Finally, I hold a police officers position as one the most honorable and respectful roles that one can obtain.

Dane L. Rowe
9-1-87

[Typed as is off original essay while in police academy]