



Representative Theresa Gavarone
3rd House District

Sponsor Testimony for HB 437
House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
February 21, 2018

Chairman Green, Vice-Chair Greenspan and Ranking Member Sheehy, thank you for allowing me to speak on HB 437, which would dedicate a portion of State Route 65 in Wood County to honor Marine Sergeant David R. Christoff.

On your iPad, you will see written testimony from David's family that will give insight into his background. I encourage you to read that so you can really appreciate why I am in front of you.

I first heard of David's story from Sean Baney, a constituent in Rossford and then attended the annual fundraiser that his mom, Amy Hogan and stepfather, James Hogan coordinate. It was there I found out what made David so special. If you just read the first paragraph of the written testimony, you will see that 'David volunteered for duty the day after the September 11, 2001 (9/11) attack'. That is why I am up here.

This past summer, I again had the opportunity to attend and this time, speak at that fundraiser. That is when I decided we needed to do something for David. At that event, there were nearly 200 people in attendance including Marines, many of whom served with David. With all of the soldiers and families there, it was like a reunion of the Battle of Fallujah. It was amazing just to sit back to watch how everyone interacted with each other and appreciate the importance of that day.

Bills like this, while they may not be complex nor require a deep policy dive, are tremendously impactful. I literally get to stand before you today with a bill that means the world to this soldier's family and will serve as either news or a reminder to the people of Rossford and Wood County that one of their own was willing to and did give the ultimate sacrifice to protect our great country. It is truly overwhelming to be able to do this today.

Chairman Green, thank you again for giving me the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 437 and I urge the committee's favorable consideration.