

87th House District

Crawford, Morrow, Wyandot  
And parts of:  
Marion, Seneca

Committees

Agriculture and Rural Development  
Government Accountability and Oversight  
Higher Education and Workforce  
Development  
Ways and Means



From the desk of:

**Riordan McClain**  
State Representative

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street  
13th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 644-6265  
[rep87@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep87@ohiohouse.gov)  
[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)

Thank you Chairman Green, Vice Chair Patton and Ranking Member Sheehy. It's an honor to be introducing my first legislation as a member of this body today. HB 537 designates a portion of U.S. Route 30 in Wyandot and Crawford counties as the "Lt. Harry L. Martin Memorial Highway".

First Lieutenant Harry Linn Martin is a hero to this nation, to this state, and most proudly to his hometown of Bucyrus, Ohio. Martin moved to Hawaii after college graduation and was working in Honolulu when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. He, as many other brave Americans enlisted shortly afterward in service to this great nation. His service in a time of war was not unlike many of his contemporaries who proudly volunteered to protect our nation against foreign foes.

Where 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harry L. Martin became an American hero was on the battlefield of Iwo Jima in 1945. He fought in Iwo Jima from February 19<sup>th</sup> through his death on March 26<sup>th</sup>, the day the Americans won that crucial battle.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Martin's parents received the Medal of Honor posthumously on his behalf on May 6, 1946.

I'll read the citation for his honor detailing his actions on the March 26, 1945:

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

FIRST LIEUTENANT HARRY L. MARTIN

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

For service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Platoon Leader attached to Company C, Fifth Pioneer Battalion, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 26 March 1945. With his sector of the Fifth Pioneer Battalion camp area penetrated by a concentrated enemy attack launched a few minutes before dawn, First Lieutenant Martin instantly organized a firing line with the Marines nearest his foxhole and succeeded, in checking momentarily the headlong rush of the Japanese. Determined to rescue several of his men trapped in positions overrun by the enemy, he defied intense hostile fire to work his way through the Japanese to the surrounded Marines. Although sustaining two severe

wounds, he blasted the Japanese who attempted to intercept him, located his beleaguered men and directed them to their own lines. When four of the infiltrating enemy took possession of an abandoned machine-gun pit and subjected his sector to a barrage of hand grenades, First Lieutenant Martin alone and armed only with a pistol, boldly charged the hostile position and killed all its occupants. Realizing that his remaining comrades could not repulse another organized attack, he called to his men to follow and then charged into the midst of the strong enemy force, firing his weapon and scattering them until he fell, mortally wounded by a grenade. By his outstanding valor, indomitable fighting spirit and tenacious determination in the face of overwhelming odds, First Lieutenant Martin permanently disrupted a coordinated Japanese attack and prevented a greater loss of life in his own and adjacent platoons and his inspiring leadership and unswerving devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in service of his country. END CITATION

I believe naming this section of road surrounding his hometown of Bucyrus, Ohio is a minimal tribute to a man who sacrificed his life for his brothers on the battlefield and, ultimately, you and me as citizens of this great nation. I believe his life is a great example of the sacrifices made by many men and women like 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Martin. It provides a reminder to all those driving through on US 30 of those men and women who gave it all so they could live as we do as well as serving as an inspiration to the next generation of men and women who will answer the call to serve and protect this nation.

I ask for your consideration and support in honoring 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harry L. Martin with a small token for what he provided his unit and this nation. Thank you again for this opportunity and I will take questions as needed.