

## **Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee**

### **Senate Bill 185 Testimony**

**Michael Logue**

**November 15, 2017**

Chairman LaRose, Vice Chair Kunze, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for having me to testify today on behalf of Senate Bill 185.

Senate Bill 185 will designate a portion of I-75 in Evendale as the Lance Corporal Christopher J. Dyer USMC, Lima Co, 3/25 Marines Memorial Highway. Lance Corporal Dyer and I met while serving in Lima Company. We quickly bonded as we were both from Greater Cincinnati High Schools graduating in 2004 and both quickly off to bootcamp and Iraq. While in Iraq and during downtime from missions, I could find LCpl. Dyer playing his guitar for all to listen, between the battle rhythm he was a joy to be around, cleaning weapons, or just talking about Cincinnati and future plans once we returned home. He had an infectious positive can do attitude and in any situation, no matter what challenges were presented, you could always count on LCpl. Dyer. He exemplified the values of the Marine Corps. and service to country above all else as if Americas enduring spirit of freedom rested solely on his back.

On August 3rd, 2005, our Company was pushing into a town along the Euphrates River, in pursuit of mujahadeen who had over ran a 6 man sniper team. My vehicle was ahead of LCpl. Dyer's vehicle by a quarter mile, I felt the blast of the IED hit his Assault Amphibious Vehicle. It was the largest IED of the Iraq war. The aluminum vehicle of 40,000lbs was blasted into the air, separated in half, and landed in pieces upside down. 15 Marines were killed in that blast while serving the country they loved alongside LCpl Dyer. That IED blast is known throughout all levels of Government and military. It created urgency for procurement of better vehicles for our forces which led a turning point in the war.

The Marines of Lima Company are nationally known for our accomplishments and losses during the 7 month deployment we cleared more than 30 cities of the insurgency. We killed or captured over 300 enemies, and we turned Iraqis into voting patriots, improving participation to 70%. We were the hardest hit unit in Iraq with 184 Ohio based Marines deployed and nearly 30% were killed and wounded. For those that we lost in combat, it's important to remember these accomplishments. These are the very accomplishments that they and LCpl. Dyer worked for and were killed.

To me, those Marines represent freedom at work in Iraq and today we need to be freedom at work here in Ohio, to honor them and preserve their enduring spirit of Freedom. It's important to all who have served, those who serve today, and those that will serve in a the future, we must be Freedom at work preserving America's Enduring spirit of Freedom, like LCpl Dyer, as if the weight of America rested solely on our backs.

This memorial highway is one small way to recognize that service to country.

Chairman LaRose, I thank you again for allowing me to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 185. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.