



**Representative John M. Rogers**  
**60<sup>th</sup> House District**

**House Bill 155 – Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**Wednesday, April 10, 2019**

Chairman Perales, Vice Chair Hood, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee – thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 155.

As I walk the halls of Capitol Square, attend our committee hearings, and make our way to the floor for Session, we often pass a set of books that so many – myself included – sometimes take for granted. In the Ohio House of Representatives, we keep a physical Journal to record the daily activities of this House for the people and our posterity. Each committee meeting, each floor speech, each reported bill, and so many details in between, are diligently kept with the help of our staffs so that the comings and goings, the ups and downs, the disagreements and triumphs are remembered. We note the good times without delay, we note the bad times without hesitation, and hopefully we learn from mistakes and move onward. My point is that together, we as the General Assembly seek to preserve the history of what a breathtaking institution that is the People’s House.

Those of us who serve Ohio today in this House are not the only ones who have served and our rich history is not exclusively worth preserving. The legislation proposed today addresses war relics, pieces of history that I believe are both important and worth saving from destruction. From the American Revolution through today’s global War on Terror, histories of Ohioans across this great state of ours, their service and sacrifice, on behalf of so many, is often times exemplified by the relics left behind or placed in honor of their memory.

Each of us here today, I suspect, has either served our Nation in some capacity or has a relative who has. I have relatives of extended degrees on both of my parents’ sides

who served in both the reserves and the Regular Army during America's Revolutionary War. My great-grand parents of my parents, on both sides, served in the Civil War from Ohio in the Grand Army of the Republic and from Virginia for the then Confederate States of America. My grand-father, who served in the Army Air Corps in World War I, and who would tell me as a child of his friend, Eddie Rickenbacker, and his exploits in the Great War, to my own father who served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav towards the end of World War II in the Pacific Theatre. And then more recently, my youngest brother who served 23 years in the United States Navy as a medical officer with two tours in Afghanistan and his last with Seal Team Two out of Stuttgart, Germany before retiring.

While it is an honor to co-author this legislation with my friend and colleague, Rep. Schaffer, I truly believe that we as a people have the responsibility to preserve our Nation's history which should include the protection of those war relics that might remain across Ohio. On a personal note, I own a Charleville Model 1777 musket, a .69 caliber standard French Infantry musket used by the French during the American Revolution and supplied by France to our fledgling military for their use. For me, it is a piece of American history, that I can touch and hold, a relic used in the fight for independence - during the birth of our Nation.

Wars, created with words, sadly result in a horrific means to settle differences. It is brutal, destructive and is mankind at his worst. Yet we should not hide from history nor reinterpret it, rather learn and remember those lessons from the past to create a lasting peace for the future. War relics serve to remind us of what was both good and bad in history, while helping to create dialog and hopefully - lessons learned.

Referring to my initial testimony, while most of us here infrequently consult with the House Journals, regardless of their content, both good or bad, no one here would advocate for their destruction. If the State is willing to keep a record for history's sake of what happens here, we might consider offering the same consideration to those items that help to keep Ohio's history alive beyond these walls and beyond the Journals. From both we are able to remember and hopefully learn from what it is they represent. They may be irreplaceable and but for preservation are lost to history. This legislation helps to ensure their preservation and Ohio's history.

In conclusion, both Representative Schaffer and I respectfully ask each of you for your support for what could be in certain circumstances – important legislation. We are happy to answer any questions of the committee at this time. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted.



John M. Rogers  
State Representative  
60<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District  
PH: 614-466-7251 | FAX: 614-719-3962  
[Rep60@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep60@ohiohouse.gov)