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December 10, 2019

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Ohio State and Local Government Committee:

I thank you all for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill No. 358, which would enact section 5.293 of the Ohio Revised Code to designate August 17 as "Eugene 'Gene' F. Kranz Day" in the state of Ohio.

Eugene F. Kranz is a true American hero and a living legend. Few individuals have done more to advance the science of aeronautics and flight, and it is not an exaggeration to say that he is one of the ten people most responsible for putting a man on the moon.

Gene Kranz may be the most famous flight director in NASA's history. During his 34-year NASA career, the Toledo native served as flight director for the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969, and led Mission Control in saving the crew of Apollo 13 after an oxygen tank exploded on the way to the lunar surface. For his heroic efforts during the Apollo 13 mission, Gene was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon any civilian.

As one of the most important people in the history of flight, Gene Kranz is precisely the type of person who deserves a day designated in his honor. One of the things that designating a day after someone can accomplish is to motivate the public to learn more about the person so honored. Gene's legacy is a reminder that Ohioans can do anything we set our mind to, it dares us all to dream big, and challenges younger generations to study science, engineering, and technology.

As Mayor of the city of Toledo, I am proud to honor the remarkable and historic career of Gene Kranz, and I give my full support to H.B. No. 358, Sec. 5.293, designating Mr. Kranz's birthday, August 17, as "Eugene 'Gene' F. Kranz Day."

Sincerely,

Wade Kapszukiewicz
Mayor, City of Toledo