

Committees:

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Representative Steven Arndt Ohio House of Representatives, 89th House District

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 64, legislation that would designate a portion of the State Route 53 within Catawba Island Township as the “Catawba Island Veterans Memorial Highway.”

This legislation is being introduced to honor veterans Private First Class William Galloway and SP4 James Davenport. Both Private Galloway and SP4 Davenport were killed while in action. This legislation was brought to my attention by SP4 Davenport’s brother, Col. Davenport, as he sought a way to honor SP4 Davenport’s memory.

SP4 Davenport served our country during the Vietnam War. As the crew chief of a U.S. Army helicopter, he passed away while combatting a rocket attack against Camp Enari in Pleiku, Vietnam. While in high school, SP4 Davenport was very involved in our community, working as a mechanic on airplanes and cars at what is now the Port Clinton Airport.

As the father of an Armed Services member, I am especially conscious of the sacrifices that our veterans and the families’ of our veterans suffer in order to protect our country. These brave men and women go to battle for the freedoms that we civilians enjoy each and every day.

The naming of this section of the highway, where both of these veterans enjoyed some of the happiest days of their lives’, will serve as a reminder to recognize and honor their lives and sacrifice, while reminding our community members of the debt we owe our Armed Services members.

I respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 64, which would name the section of State Route 53 between Water Street and continuing in a southern direction along the Catawba Island Township line as the “Catawba Island Township Veterans Memorial Highway” in the memory of our community’s veterans, SP4 James Davenport, and Private First Class William Galloway.