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Finance

Transportation and Public Safety

Ways and Means

Chair: Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Development, and Natural Resources

Ohio General Assembly
Ohio House of Representatives
Representative Jim Hoops

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Good morning Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 225, which would designate the northbound and southbound lanes of State Route 108, through all of Henry County as the “RDML Alene Duerk Memorial Highway”

Alene Duerk was the first woman to attain the rank of rear admiral in the Navy. She enlisted in the Navy Nurse Corps in 1945, in the midst of WWII, and rose the ranks until her promotion to rear admiral in 1972. When being promoted to this distinguished rank she told her mother “Never as a child did I dream of becoming an admiral. All I ever wanted to be was a nurse.” She went on to serve in naval hospitals in Portsmouth, VA, and Bethesda, MD, and aboard the hospital ship Benevolence. Duerk was awarded the Naval Reserve Medal, American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with bronze star; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp; and the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star. She retired from the Navy in 1975, and passed away at home on July 21, 2018. Naming State Route 108 in rear admiral Alene Duerk’s memory would be a wonderful testament to her life and the many lives she touched during her service.

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I thank you for your attention, and I ask for your favorable consideration of House Bill 225.

I will now answer any questions you might have.