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81<sup>st</sup> Ohio House District

Finance

Transportation and Public Safety

Ways and Means

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



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**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 267, which would designate a portion of State Route 65 in Henry County as the "LTC Kevin Sonnenberg Memorial Highway."

Lt. Col. Kevin Sonnenberg was truly a great man who loved his country, his family, and God. He was a fighter pilot for the 180th Ohio National Guard - 112th Fighter Squadron of Toledo, commercial pilot for Delta Airlines, and a Henry County farmer. He joined the Air National Guard in 1990, graduated from undergraduate pilot training in 1993, and graduated from F-16 training in 1994. He previously served his country in Qatar, Kuwait, and Turkey. On June 15, 2007 then Major Sonnenberg's F-16 fighter crashed shortly after takeoff from Balad Air Base in central Iraq. In addition to the Bronze Star and other Air Force medals, he received the Ohio National Guard Distinguished Service Medal with Valor.

Recently I was contacted by the executive director of the MAPS Air Museum in North Canton asking if we would dedicate a portion of State Route 65 in conjunction with their efforts to honor Lt. Col. Kevin Sonnenberg. The air museum is renovating an F-16A 80-513 that they brought from Arizona and they plan to paint her in memory of Kevin. The Sonnenberg family chose State Route 65 south of McClure as the ideal choice because their family farm is located along this route as well as several family members homes.

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 267. I would now be more than happy to answer any questions the committee has for me.