

06-11-2019

Representatives Green, McClain, and Sheehy

House Transportation and Public Safety Committee

Ohio House of Representatives

Ohio Statehouse

Columbus, Ohio 43215

**re: Letter of support for House Bill 259 “Designate Sgt David S. Harris Memorial Highway”**

Honored Representatives:

Dave Harris was a mountain of a man and a friend of mine!

My name is Max Midlam. When I first met Dave, he was a junior and senior in high school. I wasn't even in junior high yet. Harris was the biggest, strongest man I had ever seen! I watched him move piles of opposing defensive football players 5 yards down the field after he was first hit. He was so dominate, they gave him the ball most of the time.

To set the table, my dad was an assistant coach and Don “Big Don” Kay was the head football coach. My older brother was the quarterback who orchestrated the offense as Dave Harris powered his way down the field from his fullback position. He still holds rushing records at Pleasant High School 50 years later.

Dave hung out with my brother, was taught biology by my father, and occasionally crossed paths with me. Dave was a standout and record holder in the shot put because of his incredible strength, and he placed in the state his senior year! I went to many track meets with him and by brother as a kid. OBTW, my brother got a full ride to Michigan in the high hurdles.

My favorite memory of Dave Harris was the day he drove a dump truck and delivered a load of sawdust to our house. We used that sawdust to make a pole vault pit. Dave was larger than life to me! He made me feel special. How many people have you known in your life that said things to you, and now you can't remember what they said, but you never forget how it made you feel? We went to the rug store, got a bamboo pole they used to transport rugs, and that was what I used as a pole vault pole! My brother had a steel pole and went 13'2” at the Elgin relays.

I always looked up to Dave Harris!

Dave Harris died as an American hero in 1969. He gave the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield in Vietnam. Everyone who knew him was devastated.

Pleasant High School has a victory bell in his honor at the football field. When I played football, we rang his victory bell every home game for 4 years straight! 50 years later, after a home win, the team let me ring the bell for him again...I honor the memory of Dave Harris to this day. I have been to the Vietnam Wall in DC and went to the travelling Vietnam Wall here in Tucson. I cried both times because he meant the world to me. He was my friend!

Respectfully:

Max Midlam, schoolmate, Pleasant High School

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