

## 86th House District

Representing Union and parts of  
Marion Counties

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## Committees

Armed Services & Veterans  
Affairs, Finance, Finance  
Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Development  
and Natural Resources,  
Higher Education

## Tracy Richardson State Representative

June 11, 2019

Good morning Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you allowing me to provide written sponsor testimony for House Bill 259. I am unable to join you in person today because I am on orders to serve as a U.S. Army reserve officer at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point. House Bill 259 would designate a portion of State Route 4 in Marion County as the SGT David S. Harris Memorial Highway.

SGT David Harris was not only a decorated war hero, but he was also a hometown track and football champion and admired citizen! He grew up in Marion, and was killed in action in Vietnam while in the process of saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. During a reconnaissance-in-force mission in Kien Phong Province in South Vietnam, SGT Harris's squad came under attack by the North Vietnamese Army in a minefield. They were outnumbered, and a number of his squadmates were wounded. SGT Harris courageously exposed himself to the intense hostile fire to provide life-saving aid. He was wounded himself in the process of delivering the aid, and was moving to aid a second casualty when he succumbed to his wounds. He was 21 years old.

SGT Harris received the Silver Star, the Army's third highest medal for valor, for his heroism in the minefield. In 2017, he was posthumously inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor.

The road that would be renamed to honor SGT Harris, runs along State Route 4 between Owens road and Somerlot Hoffman road, and is close in location to Pleasant High School, where he graduated in 1966. His Military Hall of Fame Award is on permanent display in the high school, along with his retired football jersey, to honor him as a hometown war hero and sports hero. To preserve his memory and recognize his remarkable accomplishments, the David Harris Victory Bell rings after every Pleasant High touchdown. SGT Harris's classmates remember him as a kind young man who was always the first to offer help, and his patriotism, bravery, and selflessness continue to inspire students at Pleasant High and the entire community. I ask for your support of House Bill 259 so we can honor SGT Harris's outstanding heroism with a permanent tribute in his local community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy M. Richardson".

Tracy Richardson  
State Representative  
86<sup>th</sup> District