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**SB 196 - Sponsor Testimony**

**House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee**

**Tuesday, January 26, 2016**

Chair Boose, Vice Chair Green, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 196. If passed, this legislation, would name a portion of State Route 72 between Cedarville and Clifton in Greene County, in honor of Private First Class William “Brent” Turner.

Brent Turner was born in Springfield on May 1st, 1951. His family owned a turkey farm outside of Cedarville. In high school, Brent was an active member of Future Farmers of America (FFA) and in the summers would work at a local farm planting crops and taking care of the livestock. He attended the Greene County Joint Vocational School and graduated from Cedarville High School in 1969. Shortly after graduation, on August 6th, 1969, Brent joined the United States Marine Corps in Cincinnati. On February 11th, 1970, he arrived in South Vietnam and was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines as a rifleman.

Brent served in Quang Nam, Vietnam just shy of two months when his unit was attacked. In the middle of the night on April 7th, 1970, the enemy breached the Marines perimeter and threw twelve M-26 grenades towards their defensive positions. Six Marines were wounded and evacuated, Brent died within hours at the Station Hospital in DaNang as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds inflicted by a hostile grenade. Brent received the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Purple Heart.

Brent’s family and friends described him as good natured, hard-working, conscientious and humble. In particular he is remembered as being someone you could always count on, looking out for the interests of others over his own. In that spirit, he will be remembered as a true American Hero. Brent gave his life in defense of his country and his fellow Marines. He serves as an example to us all. Brent is survived by his mother Helen, brother Dennis, and sister Barbara. His father William and brother Gary have passed away.

Barbara said of her brother “Heroes are usually defined by single acts of bravery or a lifetime of giving to the community, friends, and family. Our brother Brent had too few years to meet those qualifications. Rather, he did it in just 18 short years. By passing this legislation, Brent’s memory and love of his boyhood home and his family and friends will live in all of our hearts forever.”

It is an honor for me to sponsor this bill to recognize such a selfless American who paid the ultimate price in defense of our freedom.