



**Chris Widener, FAIA**  
**President Pro Tempore**  
**10<sup>th</sup> District**

Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614.466.3780  
Widener@ohiosenate.gov

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**SB 196 - Sponsor Testimony**

**Senate Transportation Commerce and Labor Committee**

**Wednesday, September 23, 2015**

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Cafaro, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 196. This legislation, if passed, would name a portion of State Route 72 in Greene County, in honor of Private First Class William “Brent” Turner.

Brent Turner was born in Springfield, Ohio on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1951. His family owned a turkey farm outside of Cedarville, Ohio. 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 1969, Brent joined the United States Marine Corps in Cincinnati, Ohio. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 dead of night on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1970, the enemy silently crept up to 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.

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. Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions that you may have.