



Ohio House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee
The Honorable Terry Johnson, Chairman
Proponent Written Testimony on House Bill 579

*Todd Kleismit, Ohio History Connection
Director of Community & Government Relations
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Chairman Johnson and members of the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of the Ohio History Connection in support of House Bill 579, sponsored by Representative Dan Ramos. As you know, this legislation would recognize November 23rd as Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King Day. Admiral King's wartime accomplishments are too numerous to capture here, but suffice it to say he made tremendous contributions to winning World War II in the Atlantic Theater.

Representative Ramos has pointed out in his sponsor testimony that Admiral King was the highest-ranking serviceman from any branch to come from the state of Ohio. This is, indeed, the case.



When you consider the proud military heritage of Ohio that produced so many Civil War generals (Ulysses S. Grant, most notably), Columbus native Lt. Gen. Curtis LeMay and so many others, Admiral King's achievement was no small task!

The Ohio Almanac (Orange Frazer Press, edited by John Baskin and Michael O'Bryant) includes an entertaining description of King: "He was rude, abrupt, overbearing, and humorless, which were generally considered his best qualities." King himself said, "When they get into trouble, they always send for the sons of bitches." King got the Navy into shape after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and his leadership example remains a model for the Navy today.

The Ohio History Connection supports House Bill 579 to make November 23 Fleet Admiral Ernest King Day. We hope you will look favorably on this legislation and to make more Ohioans aware of Admiral King's contributions.

Sincerely,

Todd Kleismit
Director of Community & Government Relations