



**Sponsor Testimony: HB 294 – Patrolman Charles K. Yates and Patrolman Richard E. Becker**  
**Memorial Highways**

Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan and Ranking Member Sheehy: thank you for providing me with the opportunity to deliver sponsor testimony on HB 294, a bill to designate memorial highways for two fallen police officers in my district, Patrolman Charles K. Yates and Patrolman Richard E. Becker.

These brave individuals served the Poland Township Police Department selflessly and loyally before tragically dying in the line of duty in the 1980s. Patrolman Yates, 59 when he passed, suffered a heart attack on March 30, 1984 after an altercation with an intoxicated suspect. Patrolman Becker was shot while performing rounds on State Route 170 on November 6, 1983. The men had served the Department for six and four years respectively, with Becker being only 36 years old at the time of his passing.

Current Poland Police Department Officer J.R. Jackson first brought to my attention the need to acknowledge the dedication and selfless sacrifice that Patrolmen Yates and Becker exhibited during their all-too-short stints in public service. It is my hope to honor the memory of these courageous first responders by passing HB 294, which would designate a portion of U.S. Route 224 in Mahoning County as the Patrolman Charles K. Yates Memorial Highway, and a portion of State Route 170 in Mahoning County as Patrolman Richard E. Becker Memorial Highway.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 294 and I welcome any questions you may have.