



# **Jim Hughes**

## **State Representative, 24<sup>th</sup> House District**

Chairman Green, Vice-Chair Greenspan, and Ranking Member Sheehy. Thank you for allowing me to testify on House Bill 431, which would designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 as the "Officer Thomas Hayes Memorial Highway."

Tommy Hayes passed away in 2011 from complications of a gunshot wound sustained in the line of duty 31 years earlier as a Columbus Police Officer. On December 18, 1979, two weeks before he was to take the job of Columbus police sketch artist, Officer Tom Hayes was shot at a convenience store in Clintonville, where he had been checking on a reported disturbance. This incident left Tommy paralyzed from the waist down.

The next morning, Tommy told Father Kevin Lutz that he had already forgiven the shooter and was praying for him. As you will hear today from those who knew him well, this is just the kind of man Tommy was. He had a deep faith in God wanted the best for others.

Officer Hayes served the City of Columbus proudly as a Columbus Police Officer from 1972 until he was shot in 1979. Despite long-term health complications from the shooting, he continued to serve the city as a sketch artist.

Anyone who knew Officer Hayes will attest to the strength of his character, and it is my hope that this legislation will commemorate his legacy.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 431. I am happy to answer questions from the committee at this time.

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