



**Representative Lisa Sobecki  
House District 45**

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**H.B. 358 Testimony  
October 23, 2019**

Good Afternoon. Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, and fellow members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today, with my joint sponsor Representative Mike Sheehy, on House Bill 358 to designate August 17<sup>th</sup> as “Eugene ‘Gene’ F. Kranz Day.”

Gene Kranz was born August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1933 and graduated for Central Catholic High School. He graduated with a Bachelors in Aeronautical Engineering from Parks College in St. Louis, MO and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force before he started working for NASA in 1960. In addition to the Apollo 11 and 13 missions, Gene Kranz was the flight director for the Gemini missions and Skylab among other missions. Gene Kranz retired from NASA in 1994.<sup>1</sup> Recently, the city of Toledo and the Toledo Port Authority have begun the process of renaming the Toledo Express Airport after Gene Kranz. Gene Kranz played an important role in the success of NASA for decades and his contributions rank alongside Neil Armstrong and John Glenn.

Everyone knows astronauts because of their achievements. The Apollo 11 astronauts walked on the moon. I think it is important to remember it took thousands of men and women to get Apollo 11 to the moon and back. Too often they are overlooked in history books and frankly do not always get the recognition they truly deserve. Simply put House Bill 358 will officially and formally recognize the contributions Gene Kranz, an American Hero, made to history.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today and now Representative Sheehy would like to make some remarks.

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<sup>1 1</sup> <https://history.nasa.gov/SP-4223/ch6.htm>