

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: Nov 11, 2019

Name: Beverly K Nissel

Are you representing: Yourself _____ Organization Family of Ben Dillon

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 3287 Stroup Rd

City: Rootstown State: Oh Zip: 44272

Best Contact Telephone: 330 842 3499 Email: BKNissel@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 376

Specific Issue: Dedication of Memorial Highway

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent _____ Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes _____ No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? five minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Speaker and Esteem Members of the Transportation Committee and Public Safety Committee, The Honorable Representative Randi Clites and her Staff especially Angela Phiefer.

On Behalf of the entire Dillon Family. It has taken years to get to today. We as a family are requesting that Mile Marker 44-45 on Interstate 76 be dedicated to U.S. Army Ranger, CPL Benjamin C. Dillon. With me today are Ben's Parents, Terry and Linda Dillon, Ben's Nephews Bradley Benjamin Dillon and Caden Dillon and his cousin Seth Dillon. It was as a child that he and his family helped create the baseball fields that have become the Edinburg Park Complex. The citizens of Edinburg Township have done more than we could have ever expected to help us survive grief and to honor Ben. Yearly there is a Benjamin Dillon Baseball Classic to raise money for a scholarship fund that honors students who are going to pursue further education whether it is a trade school or a college. To date the scholarship fund has paid out over forty thousand dollars to Southeast Graduates to pursue an Education. Ben's parents lived across the road from each other and both sides of the family have graduated from Southeast High School.

Recently Edinburg Township Celebrated their Bi Centennial and I pointed out the 44 th mile marker and told my sister we would be celebrating that next. It rests in the middle of the park complex. The 44th mile marker can be seen from every field. It has been a long time since Ben came back to us under a US Flag and our lives have a hole in them as do the lives of Ben's closest friends and our community. It will honor Ben's memory being in the center of the field he and his family helped build to improve our community. It is the home of his baseball tournament, it is where his nephews and cousins play baseball and soccer. Each September we have celebrated his birthday and it is well attended. We entertain his friends and families who have bravely gone on to lives Ben wont and we are comforted with Ben tattoos, young people from his Ranger Family and his friends whose children will carry his name into the future.

Our family has always been one to pay it forward we are Veterans, Educators and mostly volunteers who seldom fail to support our community. Ben has a Great Uncle, U.S. Army Ranger Loyd Robinson who gave his life in Vietnam, a cousin who recently retired from the Infantry Colonel Kevin Gregory, U.S. Army, and many more relatives who were called to duty or volunteered to serve our country. I can't begin to tell you how much we will always miss Ben. I know this, we are raising our young ones to carry on the tradition of public service in whatever way they chose and they will carry on our scholarship fund and memory Ben. As lifelong residents of Ohio, in the County of Portage in the Township of Edinburg in a tiny hamlet on Stroup Road in the area referred to as Dillonville, I have the privledge of behalf of a grateful family to thank each of you for helping us honor our hometown hero United States Army Ranger CPL Benjamin C. Dillon.

