



Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 776

State Representative Niraj Antani

House Transportation and Public Safety Committee

Good afternoon Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 776, to designate Sergeant Gary Lee McKiddy Memorial Highway in Montgomery County.

I first heard Sergeant Gary Lee McKiddy's story when I was approached by his brother, Mr. Rick McKiddy. I quickly learned that Sergeant McKiddy's life was one of selflessness, bravery and loyalty.

Sergeant McKiddy was killed on May 6, 1970 when he was just 20 years old. He was killed on the line of duty while serving in the Vietnam War.

Sergeant McKiddy's aircraft was shot down in combat. After the crash, Sergeant McKiddy returned to the aircraft and saved one of his fellow soldiers and best friends. After clearing the soldier from the burning aircraft, Sergeant McKiddy returned a second time in attempt to save the pilot, but the aircraft exploded and tragically killed him.

After his death, he was awarded the Silver Star for his actions, which recognizes bravery in combat.

Sergeant Gary Lee McKiddy demonstrated tremendous courage and great sacrifice for his country and fellow soldiers. Designating this highway in his honor is a small way to thank him and honor his legacy forever.

Thank you Mr. Chair, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and the rest of the committee for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 776. I am now available to answer any questions you may have.