

Committees:

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JACK CERA

State Representative

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December 8, 2020

The Honorable Doug Green Chairman
Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Vern Riffe Center – 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Green:

Thank you for bringing H.B. 794 before the Transportation and Public Safety Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this bill and want to thank you, Vice Chair McClain, and Ranking Member Sheehy for allowing me to submit my sponsor testimony via a letter since I am home awaiting test results for Covid-19.

House Bill 794 names S.R. 7 running north bound out of Powhatan Point towards Pipe Creek Road as SSG Garren Ray Goudy Memorial Highway. Mr. Goudy was born and raised in Powhatan Point, which is in Belmont County in Eastern Ohio. He was a Staff Sergeant in the US Army's Special Forces where he served as a Radio Operator. SSG Goudy was killed in action by hostile fire in Vietnam on November 22, 1968.

According to information shared with me by the family, SSG Goudy was a member of the 82nd Airborne, 5th Special Forces and volunteered for Vietnam in 1966. While serving there, he volunteered for Mobile Strike Force Command (Mike Force) where he lived with and trained indigenous soldiers. This group of men conducted special reconnaissance patrols and played a critical role in the search and rescue of downed American pilots. He was also a member of a top-secret group called MACV'SOG, created by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The family has provided a more detailed description of his service in their proponent testimony that I am attaching for your review. However, in a brief summary, I want you to know of the heroism displayed by SSG Goudy when he was injured on one of his missions. In fact, he had to call an airstrike on his own location because enemy fire was so great. He was injured and had to use his weapon as a crutch in order to walk to an area where he could be safely extracted. After a successful rehab, and a new leg brace that enabled him to jump from planes and return to his unit, he volunteered for a mission to take Nui Coto Mountain on Nov. 22, 1968. It was during this mission that he was KIA while trying to assist one of his fellow soldiers shot by sniper fire.

I am sure that you will agree that Mr. Goudy paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He was even awarded the Purple Heart. I am hopeful that you lend your support to House Bill 794, which allows for a small stretch of State Route 7 outside his hometown to be named his honor.

Sincerely,

Jack Cera

STATE REPRESENTATIVE