



Representative Lisa Sobecki
House District 45

Am. H.B. 358 Testimony
November 17, 2020

Good Afternoon. Chair Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony today in support of Amended House Bill 358 along with my joint sponsor, Representative Mike Sheehy. House Bill 358 designates August 17th "Eugene 'Gene' F. Kranz Day" in honor of a NASA pioneer.

Gene Kranz was born August 17th, 1933 in Toledo, and graduated from Central Catholic High School. He graduated with a Bachelors in Aeronautical Engineering from Parks College in St. Louis, MO and served in the U.S. Air Force before he started working for NASA in 1960. Gene Kranz was the Flight Director for the Gemini missions, Skylab, and most famously Apollo 11 and Apollo 13. Gene Kranz retired from NASA in 1994.¹

Gene Kranz played an important role in the success of NASA for decades and his contributions rank alongside Neil Armstrong and John Glenn, but not everyone knows that. Everyone knows astronauts. The Apollo 11 astronauts walked on the moon. However, I think it's 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. House Bill 358 officially and formally recognizes the contributions Gene Kranz, an American Hero, made to history. Earlier this year in September, the Toledo Express Airport was officially renamed the "Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport." House Bill 358 was favorably reported by the House State and Local Government committee unanimously and was passed by the Ohio House unanimously as well.

Amended House Bill 358 also includes four additional day and month designations which are included on the LSC analysis.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have following Rep. Sheehy's remarks.

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