

WILLIAM R. "RANDY" BENDER





WILLIAM J. "BILL" BENDER

I'M HERE TODAY TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF HB 26 TO HONOR BOTH WILLIAM J. "BILL" BENDER AND WILLIAM R. "RANDY" BENDER.

MY UNCLE, BILL BENDER, WAS A WORLD WAR II ARMY VETERAN WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS ADULT YEARS IN SOME FORM OF SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY. BEFORE JOINING THE ARMY, HE WORKED FOR THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS. LATER, BILL JOINED THE MARION COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT AS A DEPUTY.

BILL WAS ENROUTE TO SET UP A ROADBLOCK AT HWY 37 AND 309 TO AID IN THE CAPTURE OF AN ESCAPEE FROM A LOCAL JAIL WHEN HE WAS KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. HIS END OF WATCH WAS JULY 2, 1973. HE WAS 48 AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, AND LEFT BEHIND HIS WIFE JUNE, HIS DAUGHTER NANCY, AND SONS RANDY AND TODD.

NANCY'S HUSBAND JOHN ALSO WORKED FOR THE MARION COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE.

RANDY BENDER, MY COUSIN, WENT ON TO JOIN THE OHIO HIGHWAY PATROL AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. HE ALSO WAS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY. WHILE DIRECTING TRAFFIC AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE AT U.S. RT. 23 AND S.R.53, HE WAS STRUCK BY A TRACTOR TRAILER AND DIED SEVERAL DAYS LATER IN THE HOSPITAL. HIS END OF WATCH WAS NOVEMBER 20, 1982. RANDY LEFT BEHIND HIS WIFE PAULA, AND DAUGHTERS KATIE, BECKY AND LORI.

THIS IS A FAMILY THAT HAS BEEN TOUCHED WITH TRAGEDY WHILE IN THE LINE OF SERVICE. THE WIVES, THE SONS, THE DAUGHTERS, BROTHER, SISTERS, COUSINS, NIECES AND NEPHEWS AND FAMILY FRIENDS HAVE PAID THE PRICE IN THE LOSS OF THESE MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES.

TO SHOW SUCH AN HONOR TO BOTH BILL AND RANDY HONORS THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS AS WELL, AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONSIDERATION OF RE-NAMING THIS STRETCH OF HIGHWAY.

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CRAIG:

THERE IS A ROOM AT THE MARION CO. SHERIFF OFFICE THAT IS GOING TO BE NAMED AFTER BILL. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIT BRIAN AND MEMO INTO THIS SINCE IT IS REALLY JUST HONORING BILL AND RANDY.

IS BRIAN GOING WITH YOU?

I TALKED WITH NANCY AT LENGTH TODAY, AND SHE IS GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE TO BRING THIS TO PASS. I THINK SHE JUST HAS A HARD TIME EXPRESSING HERSELF.

LOVE YOU. LET ME KNOW IF THIS WORKS FOR YOU. IF YOU WANT MORE, IF IT NEEDS CORRECTIONS, ETC. JUST LET ME KNOW! I MADE IT CAPS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ. IT'S IN MS WORD SO YOU CAN DO ANY CORRECTIONS, MAKE THE FONT LARGER ETC. IF YOU WANT TO DO THAT.

I LOVE YOU BUNCHES!

TERRY