



**Brett Hudson Hillyer**

State Representative, 98<sup>th</sup> House District

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for affording me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 521.

House Bill 521 will name the overpass on Johnson Drive spanning U.S. Route 250, in Uhrichsville the "Specialist Ronald Gene Johnson Memorial Highway"

Specialist Johnson was a resident of Uhrichsville, where he resided with his wife Judy. As you will hear from Sergeant McCray, and will read in Bob Michels', Councilwoman Amy Myers', and Specialist Johnson's niece, Carla Jones' written testimony, Specialist Ronald Gene Johnson was a true American hero.

Specialist Johnson served in the Vietnam War, where he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. Specialist Johnson was killed by sniper fire just about 40 days before he was due to be discharged and return home to Uhrichsville. Even though Specialist Johnson was killed during combat, his leadership and courage enabled his squad to continue the assault and eventually overrun the enemy. Specialist Johnson received the Bronze Star with a "V" device designation, as well as a purple heart for his contributions.

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you again for your time, and I ask for you to favorably report this Bill out of committee.