



State Representative  
**Sharon A. Ray**

Good afternoon – Chairman Baldrige, Vice-Chairman McClain– Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 555, a road naming bill to honor Lodi police Captain Carl “Smokey” Carl Edward Summers.

On December 5, 1977, Captain Summers was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver while conducting an investigation in Lodi, Ohio.

While officers engaged in a foot chase with an auto theft suspect, Captain Summers remained behind with the stolen vehicle and the police cars. When the officers returned to the scene of the stop, they found his body in the roadway next to the vehicles.

Investigations revealed that the suspect who had fled on foot was part of a car theft ring. When he had failed to return with the stolen truck, two other members of the ring went to look for him. When they located the truck they observed Captain Summers standing next to it. They intentionally struck him with their vehicle's side-view mirror.

Despite being critically injured, Captain Summers was able to fire two shots and struck the truck. The truck was found a short time later and the suspects were arrested. Tragically Captain Summers slipped into a coma and succumbed to his injuries five days later.

Both suspects, age 24, were charged with murder. One was convicted of aggravated vehicular homicide and sentenced from 2 to 5 years. The driver was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to 6 to 25 years. He received an additional 10 years for motor vehicle theft.

Captain Summers had served for the Lodi Police Department for 7 years and had previously served with the United States Air Force. He left behind a wife and young daughter.

Captain Summers was a hero who paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep our roadways and communities safe and free from crime. It is with sincere gratitude for his sacrifice that I bring this bill before you today to honor his memory and the price he paid to serve our state and the Medina County Community. The bill will designate sections of US route forty-two, between Richman road and Vandemark road in Lodi as “Captain ‘Smokey’ Carl Edward Summers Memorial Highway” to preserve his honorable actions and to remind our community of the risk our first responders take every day.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will be happy to answer any questions.