



**State Representative Ron Ferguson**

*House Bill 532 Sponsor Testimony  
House Transportation and Public Safety Committee*

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee: thank you for the privilege to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 532.

This legislation would designate the portion of State Route 7 in Belmont County from Powhatan Point towards Pipe Creek Road as the “SSG Garren Ray Goudy Memorial Highway.”

Staff Sergeant Garren Ray Goudy was born and raised in Powhatan Point. Shortly after graduating high school, Mr. Goudy enlisted in the U.S. Army. He became a member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces in 1966 when he volunteered for Vietnam. After receiving a serious leg injury during battle, Staff Sergeant Goudy was sent back to the United States and offered a medical discharge, which he refused. Instead, Mr. Goudy volunteered to return to Vietnam where he was ultimately killed during a mission on November 22, 1968.

During my time in office, members from Mr. Goudy’s family and the Powhatan Point community have reached out to my office asking for a way to commemorate Staff Sergeant Goudy. Renaming a portion of State Route 7 after Staff Sergeant Goudy would serve as a reminder of his courage and bravery, as well as honor the ultimate sacrifice he made for his country.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 532. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.