



Representative Jena Powell
Ohio's 80th House District

Good morning Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation & Public Safety Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on HB 737.

HB 737 will commemorate Dale Marker by naming a portion of State Route 571 in Darke County as the "PFC Dale Marker Memorial Highway."

Dale Marker enlisted in the United States Army during World War II, served as a light machine gunner in Company L of the 15th Infantry Regiment, and was honorably discharged as a Private First Class on November 11, 1945.

Dale was wounded twice during the War - once in Italy and once in France. He received numerous awards for his service to our country, including the Silver Star medal for gallantry in action, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star medal for meritorious service in ground combat, Purple Heart medal with one bronze cluster, Good Conduct medal, Middle Eastern Campaign medal with four campaign bronze service stars and bronze arrowhead for invasion, Army of Occupation medal with Germany clasp, French Fourragere, Presidential Unit Citation and World War II Victory medal.

Inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor on May 3, 2013, Dale Marker remains an Ohioan whose exemplary service and character we can look up to and strive to emulate.

Dale passed away in 2018, but his family still lives in Darke County, and are very proud of his service to our country. As his obituary reads, "Dale is survived by his son and daughter in law, Stephen & Barbara Marker of Greenville; daughters and son in law, Carol Griffith of Greenville and Linda & Kirk Morrison of Tipp City; grandchildren, Matthew (Karmen) Marker, Ryan (Lori) Marker, Jessica (Eric) Osswald, Kevin Griffith, Brian (Jessica) Griffith, Jennifer Allen, Stephanie (Andy) Tarter, Aaron (Stephanie) Morrison and Megan Roberts; great grandchildren Devin, Laren, Ashley, Kaitlyn, Alec, Jacob, Trevor, Bella, Mason and Jori; twin sister, Doris Neff of Palestine [who has since also passed]; sister in law, Patty Sackett of Greenville; brother in law, Bill Sackett of Greenville [who has since also passed]; as well as numerous nieces and nephews."

In a world and time when we need more heroes to look up to, and more great men of virtue, character, and valor to emulate, I think it highly appropriate that we honor and preserve the memory of Private First Class Dale Marker in the Darke County community by enacting this road naming designation.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions at this time.