



**Representative Lisa Sobecki
House District 45**

**House Bill 24: Gene Kranz Day Testimony
November 10, 2021**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony today in support of House Bill 24 which designates August 17th as “Eugene ‘Gene’ F. Kranz Day” in honor of a NASA pioneer, with my joint sponsor Representative Mike Sheehy.

Gene Kranz was born August 17th, 1933 in Toledo, and graduated from Central Catholic High School. He graduated with a Bachelors in Aeronautical Engineering from Parks College in St. Louis, MO and served in the U.S. Air Force before he started working for NASA in 1960. While at NASA, Gene Kranz was the Flight Director for the Gemini missions, Skylab, and most famously Apollo 11 and Apollo 13. Gene Kranz retired from NASA in 1994.¹

Gene Kranz played an important role in the success of NASA for decades and his contributions rank alongside Neil Armstrong and John Glenn, but not everyone knows that. Everyone knows astronauts. The before mentioned Apollo 11 astronauts walked on the moon. However, I think it’s important to remember it took thousands of men and women to get Apollo 11 to the moon and back. Too often they are overlooked in history books and frankly do not always get the recognition they truly deserve.

House Bill 24 recognizes the contributions Gene Kranz, an American Hero, made to history. In September 2020, the Toledo Express Airport was officially renamed the “Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport.” House Bill 24 was favorably reported by the House State and Local Government Committee unanimously, and was passed by the Ohio House 94-0.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 24 and I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

¹ <https://history.nasa.gov/SP-4223/ch6.htm>