

## **Terry Johnson**

State Senator

14<sup>th</sup> Senate District



### **Sponsor Testimony**

Senate Bill 346

Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

November 15, 2022

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 346.

This legislation would designate April 27th as Ulysses S. Grant Day here in Ohio. Ulysses S. Grant was a General of the United States Army and the 18th President of the United States. A true native of Ohio, Grant was born on April 27, 1822 in Point Pleasant of Clermont County, and spent most of his early life in Georgetown of Brown County.

Grant played an instrumental role in the American Civil War under President Abraham Lincoln. Notably, his leadership earned the Union victory at some of the most significant battles of the Civil War, including the Battle of Vicksburg through the Appomattox Campaign and eventually the surrender of the Confederacy.

Remaining steadfast, he refused to accept any “terms except unconditional and immediate surrender.”<sup>1</sup> This philosophy quickly gave him the title “Unconditional Surrender Grant.”<sup>2</sup> He was wholeheartedly dedicated to the men who fought alongside him, using caution and carefully calculated strategy to defeat the Confederacy battle after battle until the end of the Civil War. Grant was a true American patriot and hero.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.biography.com/news/ulysses-s-grant-nickname-unconditional-surrender-grant>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.biography.com/news/ulysses-s-grant-nickname-unconditional-surrender-grant>

While past historians have overlooked and even disrespected Grant's presidency, he is now finally gaining the recognition he deserved not only as a great military figure, but also as a great civilian leader. During his presidency, he worked towards ensuring full rights for former slaves through the reconstruction period.<sup>3</sup> Grant was dedicated to reunifying the North and the South as well as advancing other civil rights issues throughout his time in office, such as enacting legislation to limit violence against former slaves.<sup>4</sup>

General Grant's legacy left an indelible imprint not only on our nation, but also on our great state. He approached leadership with the solid common sense of a rural Ohioan. He had a great love for his country and most of all, for the American people. I am proud to represent General Grant's birthplace and the place of his childhood home in the 14th Senate District.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.usgrantlibrary.org/usgrant/bio>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/ulysses-s-grant-1>