



Senator Michael Rulli

Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 173 Senate Transportation Committee June 1, 2021

Chair Kunze, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 173. Which would designate a portion of State Route 224 in Mahoning County as the “Joseph K. Vrabel ‘Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame’ Memorial Highway.”

Joseph K. Vrabel of Poland, Ohio was a Korean War veteran, a Post Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a Life Member of the American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15. He died at home on January 21, 2009, and was posthumously honored as a 2013 inductee to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

Known locally as a “veteran’s veteran,” Joe was instrumental in aiding veterans throughout the Mahoning Valley. He was an avid supporter of the American Legion’s Buckeye Boys State, promoting the program whenever he could. Joe was also instrumental in obtaining a van to transport veterans from Youngstown to the Cleveland VA hospitals and clinics. In addition, he spent countless hours as a member of Mahoning Valley Post 15’s Honor Guard and Color Guard, providing final military honors to his fellow veterans.

Joseph K. Vrabel’s dedication to our country, community and the veterans of the Mahoning Valley deserves recognition. Renaming this stretch of highway in Poland, his hometown, is a fitting way to memorialize his life and service. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.