



**State Representative  
Jamie Callender**

**State Representative  
Daniel P. Troy**

**Sponsor Testimony for HB 291  
Before the Senate Transportation Committee  
September 22, 2021**

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 291, a bill to designate the portion of State Route 86 through Leroy Township in Lake County as the "SSG Kyle R. McKee Memorial Highway."

Staff Sergeant Kyle McKee grew up in Leroy Township and graduated from Riverside High School in Painesville. From an early age, he knew that he wanted to continue his family's legacy of military service and in 2002, between his junior and senior years of high school, Kyle enlisted in the Army. After graduation, he fully entered military service and became a UH-60 Helicopter Repairer.

During his military service Staff Sergeant McKee was sent around the world, deploying to Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, and Egypt. He was the recipient of numerous military awards and decorations including the following: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal 3 times, Army Achievement Medal 4 times, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal 2 times, Iraq Campaign Medal 3 times, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Action Badge, Senior Aircrew Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

On November 12th, 2020, while conducting routine operations in Sinai, Egypt, Staff Sergeant McKee, along with five other soldiers, was killed when his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter suffered a catastrophic failure and crashed.

This legislation will stand as a memorial to Kyle's service and the loss suffered by the McKee family. It should also serve as a reminder to us all that the freedoms we enjoy every day come at a high price.

In addition to the recognition for Staff Sergeant McKee, a number of other memorial naming proposals and license plate creations were included during hearings in the House Transportation Committee. We would direct your attention to the bill's analysis to learn more about the many other heroes that are a part of this legislation.

# Ohio House of Representatives



Chair Kunze and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 291 and we would be happy to address any question that you may have.