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**90<sup>th</sup> House District**  
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of Brown County

Chair John, Vice-chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 243. This bill will designate November 5th as "Roy Rogers Day" in the state of Ohio.

House Bill 243 seeks to honor an Ohio icon—Roy Rogers, a legend rooted in our soil. Born Leonard Franklin Slye on November 5, 1911 in Cincinnati, Roy's early years were shaped in Portsmouth, where he formed the values and spirit of our great state.

Portsmouth proudly hosts the Roy Rogers Museum and an annual festival, marking its 40th anniversary. The intersection of Roy Rogers and Sly Roads in Lucasville-McDermott is home to the Ohio Historical marker, commemorating Roy's boyhood residence.

The marker highlights Roy's influential role in mid-20th-century American culture, from his Cincinnati roots to his Hollywood success. His clean-cut cowboy persona, showcased in over 100 western films and the family-oriented Roy Rogers Show, made him an enduring symbol of American heroism.

Roy Rogers is not a distant figure but a local hero, celebrated through murals, a star, an esplanade, and a county road in Portsmouth. His homestead stands as a silent testament to Ohio's nurturing of dreams, urging us to recognize and celebrate Roy Rogers Day on November 5th. This bill goes beyond honoring a man; it's about embracing our heritage and acknowledging Ohio's impact on America's cultural landscape.

House Bill 243 commemorates Roy Rogers' birthday, ultimately recognizing the invaluable contributions he made to our state and nation. Let us unite in preserving the legacy of a true Ohioan and making history by officially designating November 5th as "Roy Rogers Day" in the great state of Ohio.

Thank you.