



Monica Robb Blasdel

State Representative, 79th District

Chair McClain, Vice-Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 81 – designating “Sheriff Dale R. Williams Memorial Highway”.

It is a privilege to be able to bring this legislation forward and honor one of Carroll County's most dedicated public servants. Sheriff Williams was a lifelong resident of the county. He joined the Sheriff's Department in 1969 as a dispatcher, just a few years after graduating from Carrollton High School. After working as a full-time road deputy, he moved to the Carrollton Police Department, and would eventually be promoted to Sergeant in 1994. 2004 saw his initial election as Sheriff, where he faithfully served his constituents with a strong commitment to build a well-trained law enforcement department focused on protecting its community. Leading a sheriff's department in a small, rural county is no easy task, but Sheriff Williams was able to construct a professional, service-oriented staff that garnered respect and appreciation within Carroll County.

Unfortunately, last September, Sheriff Williams passed during his 18th year of service in that role. While I never had the opportunity to serve directly with Sheriff Williams, I had met him on several occasions, and was privileged to honor him alongside his family, friends and constituents at the Bell-Herron Gymnasium last September.

I have witnessed the effects of his experience and leadership. The admiration the community has for him shows the transformational influence that he left on the Sheriff's Department. He was a lifelong public servant dedicated to the county, and his legacy certainly will never be forgotten.

This bill designates a portion of State Route 39 between Carrollton and Dellroy as “Sheriff Dale R. Williams Memorial Highway”. Throughout his 53 years in law enforcement, Sheriff Williams patrolled this stretch of highway countless times. The family farm that he grew up on similarly falls along State Route 39. There isn't a tribute more fitting than naming this stretch of highway in his honor.