



Representative Angie King
Ohio's 84th District

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 132, designating portion of highway through St. Marys Ohio as the Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway.

Herbert C. Linville was born in San Angelo Texas on July 31st, 1919 to Cleeland and Mary Magdalene Linville. As a small boy, he was given the nickname "Tex." In the mid-1930s, Tex lived with his mother in St. Marys and attended Memorial High School He would be assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment billeted in St. Marys. During his time in the Company, he would reach the rank of Sergeant. By 1940, Headquarters Company was training in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, with most of the 37th Infantry Division. Late in the year, Sgt. Linville's enlistment expired and he returned to St. Marys where he obtained brief employment at the St. Marys Manufacturing Company.

In February, 1942, Sgt. Herbert C. Linville was recalled to service. He completed registration into the draft and joined up with the Army at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in Pennsylvania where parts of the 37th division were training prior to shipping out for the Pacific.

The 37th Division would arrive in the Fiji Islands during the month of June, 1942. After fortifying the Islands, the Division moved on to Guadalcanal the following spring. In a letter received by his mother, written on May 24th, 1943, Tex wrote that they had one more mission to complete and that he hoped to be sent to Australia or back to the U.S.

The last letter Tex Linville would write was on June 30th. He penned to his mother that he would be very busy and not to worry if she didn't hear from him. Sgt. Herbert C. Linville was killed in action eleven days later; he was 23 years old.

The 3rd battalion of the 148th Infantry Regiment was part of two Battalions joining the Marines on what would be the Munda Campaign. They would be the assaulting forces on the Island of New Georgia in the Solomon Islands on July 5th, 1943. During the fighting to drive the Japanese off the island and capture Munda Airfield, the Battalion would see heavy fighting and suffer many casualties, including Sgt. Herbert C. Linville.

The day that Tex Linville was killed, July 11, 1943, a Japanese Salient had entered the Battalion area of operation. The actions of Tex Linville on that day were witnessed by Captain Charles Henne of St. Marys, who was the Commanding Officer of M. Company at the time. He would later write that Tex Linville assembled a patrol of Headquarters Company soldiers to counter the Japanese Salient. The group attacked a Japanese machinegun position in what Captain Henne described as a suicide mission. During the heavy fighting, Tex Linville advanced on the Japanese position alone and was hit by machinegun fire and killed instantly.

For his actions that day, Sgt. Herbert C. Linville would be posthumously awarded the nation's Silver Star, for gallantry in action. Sgt. Herbert C. "Tex" Linville was laid to rest in Elmgrove Cemetery; in 1948, a proper Veteran's marker was placed at his grave.

On Veterans Day, 2022, a bronze plaque was affixed to the Ohio Army National Guard Memorial in St. Marys, Ohio to forever memorialize the sacrifice made by Sgt. Herbert C. Linville.

It is an honor for me to have the opportunity to acknowledge the service of this great American and fellow Ohioan. Memorializing him through naming a portion of highway through St. Marys will not only pay tribute to his extraordinary accomplishments, but also instill a sense of pride and gratitude with the community that he was raised in.

I thank you for hearing testimony on House Bill 132 and welcome any questions.