

49th House District

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Jim Thomas
State Representative

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 202, legislation designating the “Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway”.

Dennis Alan Combs was born and raised in the City of Canton, a proud alumni of Canton McKinley High School. After the breakout of the Vietnam War, Dr. Combs volunteered to fight for his nation in 1964 and served in the US Army as a Specialist of the 128th Medical Detachment, 1st Log Command. Tragically at the young age of 23, he was killed in the line of duty on June 16th, 1967 with only three months left in his service requirement. He left behind a widowed wife and two year old son. This Friday shall unfortunately be the 56th anniversary of his death.

Dennis is remembered fondly by the community as someone dedicated to protecting his family and country. This bill would designate the stretch of US Route 62 between Harmont Avenue NE and Rebar Avenue NE in honor of Specialist Dennis Alan Combs. This stretch was chosen as his tribute due to the proximity of his childhood home and family who still live in the area, including his elderly mother. While nothing will fill the void that his death caused both to his family and to the Canton area, this dedication will forever memorialize the sacrifice he gave for our country. With Independence Day less than a month away, it is vital that we remember those who have given their lives to fight in the name of our democracy.

Again, I thank you for hearing my testimony for HB 202 and I will answer any questions that members of the committee might have.