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Committees:

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State Representative Adam Holmes

97th House District of Ohio

House Bill 269 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman McClain, Vice Chairman Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 269 to honor Sgt. Bradley J. Harper USMC for his sacrifice in defense of our nation. We are honored to sponsor this bill that will name a two mile section of Route 60 from its intersection with Main Street in Dresden, Ohio to its connection with Rt 16.

Sgt. Harper was born November 1, 1979 in Zanesville. He was a 1998 graduate of Tri-Valley High School where he had played football. Following graduation, he attended MATC and entered the US Marine Corps Reserves in January 1999. He received an Associates Degree from MATC and a Bachelors Degree from Ohio University both in Criminal Justice. Sgt. Harper enlisted in the US Marine Corps Reserves on July 27, 1998. After completing his Military Occupational School in 29 Palms, CA he was assigned as a ground radio repairman to H&S Co, 3rd Bn, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Div Brookpark, OH. He transferred to Co A, 4th Assault Amphibian Bn Norfolk, VA on August 22, 2003. He moved to Virginia in 2003 and graduated from the Virginia Beach, VA Police Academy and was Sergeant of Arms of his graduating class. He served in the Oceanfront 2nd precinct in Virginia Beach.

On January 4, 2005, his current unit was activated and he was deployed to Iraq on March 13, 2005. was killed in action Wednesday August 3, 2005 during a combat operation near Haditha in southern Iraq along with 13 others from Lima Co. 3d Bn 25th Marines in Brookpark. Between May and Aug 2005, 22 Marines and one Navy Corpsman from Lima Co. were killed in action in Iraq during some of the most intense ground fighting of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There's been lots of change in the world in the past 18 years! But some things never change; and good things always endure Sgt Harper has never been forgotten and remains a permanent part of Dresden. There is an annual Sgt Harper Memorial 5K that runs through the town. He is buried in the cemetery adjacent to the Tri-Valley High School football field on the northern edge of the village where he played and where his memory remains a part of fall Friday nights. He is of course well remembered during Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies, and he has so many friends and family in Dresden.

But this road naming will be truly special. Most people use Route 60 to get to Dresden, and our hope is that this road naming becomes a permanent, positive reminder of all the things Sgt Harper defended and all the honorable things Sgt Harper represents. A permanent reminder to be proud, to be thankful, and to be faithful.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on this bill, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.