



**Representative Jamie Callender**

Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 350, Designate Lance Corporal Austin B. Schwenk Memorial Highway  
House Transportation Committee  
April 9, 2024

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Chairman McClain, Vice-Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today on HB 350.

Born on Marine Corps Base (MCB) LeJeune on May 22, 2004, Lance Corporal (LCpl) Austin B. Schwenk always dreamed of becoming a Marine. In his own words, Austin joined the Marines “for the simple fact that it will give me the discipline and leadership that I believe I’ll be able to use later in my life”. Shortly after his graduation from Riverside Highschool 2022, Austin enlisted in the Marine Corps and shipped off to bootcamp.

Following LCpl Schwenk’s completion of bootcamp, he shipped of to Marine Combat Training and his Military Occupational Specialty School to become a 2171, also known as an electro-optical ordnance repairer. Upon completion of his MOS School, LCpl Schwenk was assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Marines stationed at MCB LeJeune.

Unfortunately, LCpl Schwenk was killed on October 18, 2023 on MCB LeJeune. He was 19 years old. LCpl Schwenk is remembered as an avid athlete, running the 24-in-24 challenge 4 years in a row, he loved working on and driving his Mustang, and listening to music. He was also a fan of the Marvel Cinematic Universe and Godzilla movies.

LCpl Schwenk is survived by his mother Kaci Christison, father Robert B. Schwenk Jr, siblings Bryce Gorg and Fiona Schwenk, stepfather Edward Christison, grandparents Virginia Gorg and Robert Schwenk, aunts Maureen Nightengale, Kimberly Durk, Victoria Morus, Brianna Howell, and Christine Monahan, and his uncle David Hill.

Lance Corporal Austin B. Schwenk was a proud Marine and one of Lake County’s finest sons. It is for these reasons Ohio should designate the Lance Corporal Austin B. Schwenk Memorial Highway. Mr. Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. We look forward to any questions you may have.