

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 453, which designates the northbound and southbound lanes of I-77, between mile marker 25 and mile marker 29, in Noble County as the Staff Sergeant George P. Mizik (USMC) Memorial Highway.

Born on May 5th, 1921, SSgt. Mizik was a native son of Noble County. He graduated from Belle Valley High School in 1938 and joined the service shortly thereafter. SSgt. Mizik was enlisted in the United States Marine Corp and served his country in the Pacific theatre of World War II. While deployed, he participated in it's most famous battle, the battle of Iwo Jima, and received a Purple Heart for his time in the service. Ssgt. Mizik was, in every sense of the word, a true American Hero.

Upon returning home to Noble County, SSgt. Mizik became an active member of his community and local veteran organizations. He was an employee of the Continental Can Company in Newark, OH before ultimately retiring from the Dana Corporation in Caldwell, OH. He was a member of the Marine Corp league in Zanesville; the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Cambridge, the Dexter City American Legion Post #418 and an active member of his church, Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Belle Valley. He was a father to four sons, Robert E., Thomas, James P., and Patrick M. Mizik.

SSgt. Mizik died on September 9, 2005. He died with the legacy of his 4 sons, his courage in battle and his lasting impact in his community. When his country needed him, he answered the call. The world is a better and safer place because of the life of SSgt. George P Mizik, USMC.

Chairman McClain I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify on this bill today and I would like to thank all members of committee for your support.