

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and the members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on House Bill 482.

Ohio State Highway Patrolman James Patrick Gardner from Niles, Ohio was an honorable, dedicated, and service-oriented man. Enlisting in the navy on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1942 and serving the WWII. After the war James Gardner joined the Highway Patrol and was stationed at the Massillon Post upon graduation from the training school in 1947. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1948, at 9:30 PM, Patrolman Gardner was killed in a car crash during a pursuit of a traffic violator. In an attempt to pass a tractor trailer in pursuit of an offending vehicle, Patrolman Gardner's car, driven by his partner, struck another automobile and careened into a pole. Patrolman Gardner sustained internal injuries leading to his death later that night in the Alliance City Hospital. Patrolman Gardner would have been 25 that coming September.

HB 482 would designate the stretch of route 62, the same highway where Patrolman Gardner lost his life, as "Patrolman James P. Gardner Memorial Highway." This bill allows us to show gratitude for Patrolman Gardner and his service and reminds all who pass this section of highway the duty and sacrifice that our patrolmen and women have made in service of our great communities. I urge you to consider supporting this bill. Thank you to the chair and the committee for allowing me to testify as the sponsor of this bill and will gladly answer any questions you may have.