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**House Transportation Committee
Senate Bill 145 — Sponsor Testimony
June 25, 2024**

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 145.

Senate Bill 145 would designate a portion of Refugee Road in Fairfield County as the “Corporal David A. Johnston Memorial Highway.” Specifically, running between the intersections of State Route 256 to Pickerington Road Northwest.

Corporal Johnston was a 1967 graduate of Pickerington High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl H. Johnston. He served in the United States Marine Corps as a member of Mike Company, Third Battalion, Fifth Regiment, First Marine Division.

Corporal Johnston was killed in action while supporting Operation Taylor Common in the Quang Nam Province of South Vietnam on March 3, 1969. He was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously for his actions during the combat operation. The award citation for Corporal Johnston read in part: “Throughout this period, Cpl. Johnston performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. He was initially assigned as a rifleman and reassigned as a fire team leader.” Additionally, he was Pickerington High School’s only casualty during the Vietnam War and is the namesake of American Legion Post 283 in Pickerington.

He is truly the definition of a hometown hero, and his life was tragically cut short over 54 years ago. Due to this, it is my request to designate this portion of Refugee Road to commemorate one of Fairfield County’s bravest individuals.

Thank you once again Chairman McClain and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.