



Representative Jon Cross
Ohio's 83rd House District

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 House Bill 631.

HB 631 will designate a portion of State Route 273 as the Major David McGue Memorial Highway. HB 631 also gives me an opportunity to talk to you about a real American Hero, just one day after celebrating Veterans Day. Major McGue had an upbringing not unlike my own. He was born in Kenton, OH in 1970, and was a 1989 graduate of Ridgemont High School, a 1998 graduate of The Ohio State University, and a 2002 graduate of Findlay University. He served a combined 32 years of military service between the U.S. Airforce and the Army National Guard, where he had combat time during Operation Desert Storm and several deployments in the Middle East. Major McGue also served as a physician's assistant for the Veterans Administration in Marion. He truly emulated servant leadership in everything that he did.

Outside of his esteemed military career, Major McGue loved hunting, running, and traveling. He spent his time helping kids achieve their fitness goals through sports and powerlifting. By all accounts, Major McGue was a kind and caring man, quick with a joke, or to give the shirt off his back to someone in need. He was truly an excellent Major, Veteran, father, son, brother, uncle, friend, and person.

Tragically, on August 22nd, 2021, Major McGue took his own life. The idea that many of our bravest and most selfless citizens come home to experience continued pain and hardship is devastating. It is my hope this highway will serve to not only ensure Major David McGue is never forgotten, but that we as American citizens never forget the sacrifices our service members make and the battles they face both at home and abroad.

The Major David McGue Memorial Highway will run directly in front of Ridgemont Highschool, where Major McGue went to school and spent much of his time giving back to his community. It will serve as a reminder to all residents, faculty, and students of one of their great native sons.

Thank you again for the opportunity to honor Major McGue and provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 631. I am available to answer any questions you may have at this time.