



**Representative Tex Fischer**  
**58<sup>th</sup> House District**

Chairman McClain, Vice Chairman Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 510, which would designate the Army Lieutenant Colonel Robert R. Melnick Memorial Highway, this afternoon.

Born on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1956, Lt. Col. Melnick lived his life as a true servant to his family, his community, and his country. Lt. Col. Melnick served his country in the Army Reserves for 23 years within the Judge Advocate General Corps with various units around the country. Most recently the 91st LOD out of Chicago. He was a 1978 graduate of Hiram College, and 1981 graduate of Ohio Northern University Law School.

Lt. Col. Melnick also served his community in and around Youngstown, Ohio by practicing law with his father Attorney Arseny Melnick in their law firm Melnick and Melnick. They operated for over 20 years. He accrued many hours of pro-bono service to Youngstown residents that otherwise couldn't afford an attorney. It was his way of giving back and sharing his faith in God as an advocate of religious freedom.

He was tragically killed in an accident on I-80 returning to Youngstown, OH from military duty in Chicago, IL. His death struck the family especially hard as two of his sons, Isaac and Joel, were serving in Afghanistan at the time of the accident. By naming this section of State Route 11 after him, we will be able to forever enshrine the legacy of service he and his family have given to the community as well as our country.

I would like to thank State Senator Cutrona for originally proposing this bill when he was still the Representative for the 58<sup>th</sup> District, as well as Lt. Col. Melnick's son Joel for helping in bringing this idea to our district office's attention. I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time, and I urge you to vote yes on designating the Army Lieutenant Colonel Robert R. Melnick Memorial Highway.