

**Committees**

Vice Chair Criminal Justice,  
Higher Education, Primary and  
Secondary Education, Economic  
and Workforce Development



**COLUMBUS OFFICE**

VERN RIFFE CENTER  
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET 11<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-0253  
PHONE: (614) 466-1418  
REP41@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

**State Representative Joshua E. Williams  
Ohio House of Representatives**

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 651.

I am proud to be here today with Shawnelle Johns, the great-niece of Staff Sergeant Jack Coy, a resident of Oregon, Ohio and a great Ohioan. Staff Sergeant Coy served his country bravely in the skies over Germany in the second World War, serving as a tail gunner aboard a B-24J "Liberator", one of the most dangerous jobs in the entire military. Only 46% of gunners in the Air Force were able to make the trip home alive.<sup>1</sup> At only 20 years old, Staff Sergeant Coy displayed more courage in the face of danger than most of us can even imagine. In February of 1944, the worst came to pass, and Staff Sergeant Coy's aircraft was shot down and he was reported Missing in Action. In 2021, historians, working alongside the American Battle Monuments Commission, took custody of Staff Sergeant Coy's remains from a cemetery in Belgium and performed tests for identification.<sup>2</sup>

In May of this year, Staff Sergeant Coy's remains were transferred to his hometown in Oregon for a military funeral. It is a special privilege to welcome home Staff Sergeant Coy to Oregon. The whole Coy family has left an

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bridgton.com/bob-carlson-tale-of-a-tail-gunner/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wtol.com/article/news/local/toledo-native-killed-in-wwii-identified/512-5175dbef-c427-49a2-8cc4-4377947697f6>

**41<sup>ST</sup> HOUSE DISTRICT**

LUCAS COUNTY

**Committees**

Vice Chair Criminal Justice,  
Higher Education, Primary and  
Secondary Education, Economic  
and Workforce Development



**COLUMBUS OFFICE**

VERN RIFFE CENTER  
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET 11<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-0253  
PHONE: (614) 466-1418  
REP41@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

**State Representative Joshua E. Williams**  
**Ohio House of Representatives**

indelible mark on the community, living in the area for generations as homesteaders and small business owners. As the State Representative for Oregon, it is my great honor to welcome home an American hero and dedicate the section of Interstate 280 between Navarre Avenue and Front Street the "Staff Sergeant Jack W. Coy Memorial Highway".

**77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-6111**  
**www.ohiohouse.gov**