



Rep. D.J. Swearingen
89th Ohio House District

Chair McClain, Vice-Chair Dobs, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the Ohio House Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to offer sponsor testimony on H.B. 652 that would designate a portion of State Route 2 in Ottawa County as "Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway." This legislation has the support of the Ottawa County Sheriff Levorchick to highlight one of Ottawa County's best.

Corporal Dockstader of Port Clinton, Colonel Hobbs states "put his life on the line in service of our Nation", proudly serving two tours. The first from 1989-1993 and the second from 2005-2006. He was described as a man of "expertise, calm, with an unflappable demeanor under duress". This is why he was chosen as the platoon radio operator and eventually worked his way up to squad leader over the course of his career.

Corporal Dockstader, known to many as Rob, was a combat veteran. Colonel Thomas Hobbs, also a combat veteran, described Rob's experiences as "far more intense than anything [he] did", recalling Rob's time in Iraq with the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines. Fellow Corporal Eric Hamilton credited and recommended him for commendation for his service on the 26th of August 2005, when a roadside IED detonated and amid open small arms fire - Corporal Dockstader assisted disoriented and mildly wounded marines to cover. While doing so, he marked targets with tracers, ensuring casualties were minimized due to his whereabouts following the IED blast and maintaining order during its chaos. It is actions like these that protect not only our nation but those abroad.

Rob carried with him the pains of his bravery for the rest of his life until passing away last year. This legislation, while a small gesture, will hopefully honor him, his family, and friends. We must bring attention to those Americans who demonstrate virtue and put themselves in harms way, so that others may live safely and comfortably. Thank you Chairman McClain and the members of the House Transportation Committee for hearing my testimony. I'd be happy to answer any questions.