

Theresa Gavarone
Majority Whip
2nd District



Nathan Manning
13th District

Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 167
Transportation Committee
May 22, 2024

Chairman Kunze, Vice-Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of S.B. 167. S.B. 167 would designate a portion of State Route 60 in Erie County as the "Marine Corporal Tim W. Russell Highway."

Corporal Russell was born and raised in Brownhelm Township in Lorain County and attended Vermillion High School, of which he is now a member of the Vermillion High School Hall of Fame.

Corporal Russell served his country in the Vietnam War. His company's headquarters' came under attack, Corporal Russell was knocked unconscious and was bleeding profusely from wounds suffered following a rocket explosion. In an act of selfless bravery, Corporal Russell refused medical attention and remained on the battlefield to direct his squad's fire. The attack was ultimately repelled. For his actions, Corporal Russell earned a purple heart, as well as the Navy Cross, the 2nd-highest decoration given to Sailors and Marines, sitting just below the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration that may be awarded. Part of his citation reads: "By his aggressive fighting spirit, resolute determination and selfless devotion to duty at great personal risk, Corporal Russell upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."¹

Corporal Russell returned to the area following his military service and once again served the community as a K-9 Officer with the Cleveland Police. In 2016, he was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame.

There is nothing we could ever do to repay Corporal Russell for the valiant sacrifice and service he made to this country. However, the least we could do is honor him and by passing this bill we will doing just that. Thank you once again for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on behalf of S.B. 167 and I welcome any questions.

¹ <https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/4454>