

June 9, 2024

Thank you to the members of the Transportation Committee for considering HB 81 to rename a portion of State Route 39 between Carrollton Ohio and Dellroy Ohio the Sheriff Dale R. Williams Memorial Highway. I am so sorry my family is unable to be in attendance at today's hearing.

My family and I could not be more proud that this Bill has made it this far. This stretch of highway is incredibly meaningful, it connects the Williams Family Farm in Dellroy, where my father grew up and our family still farms, to Carrollton where my dad was the County Sheriff for 18 years until he passed in 2022.

My dad began his career in law enforcement in 1969, at the age of 19 as a dispatcher for the Carroll County Sheriff. His role in law enforcement changed many times over the years until he was elected as Sheriff of Carroll County in 2004. This was his dream and it was finally realized. Whether my dad was working for the Sheriff's office, the Police Station, or making hay on the family farm, one theme was the same, he wouldn't do it anywhere but Carroll County.

There is a long standing joke in the community that any time there was any type of emergency, the Sheriff was always there. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, weekends and holidays he was there, he never took a day off. He was there for everything. Parades, fairs, supporting the 4H, fundraisers, helping with security at school events, if the community had a need, he filled it.

We have spoke to and been in many conversations with members of the Carroll County Community and everyone is very supportive of the opportunity of this Bill. My dad was a working Sheriff, he was a sheriff of the people. He was very well loved, and people in the community felt safe with him as Sheriff. If this Bill passes, it will be a wonderful tribute and reminder to the community that he is still on his watch and how much he cared for this community.

Thank you again for reading my letter. Thank you to Don Jones and Monica Robb Blasdel for bringing this bill forward.

My family and I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,
Tonya Mader
Daughter of Dale R Williams