



State Representative Justin Pizzulli

Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 13

House General Government Committee

February 25th, 2025

Chair Ray, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 13, legislation that will designate November 5th as “Roy Rogers Day” in the state of Ohio.

House Bill 13 seeks to honor an Ohio icon—Roy Rogers, the “King of the Cowboys”—a legend deeply rooted in our state’s history. Born Leonard Franklin Slye on November 5, 1911, in Cincinnati, Roy’s formative years were spent in Portsmouth, where he developed the values that defined both his character and our great state. His family moved their houseboat in 1919, from Cincinnati to their new home on the river in Portsmouth.

For many years Portsmouth proudly preserved Roy’s legacy with the Roy Rogers Museum and an annual festival, just recently sadly discontinued. The intersection of Roy Rogers and Sly Roads in Lucasville-McDermott features an Ohio Historical Marker, commemorating his boyhood home and highlighting his impact on American culture.

Roy Rogers wasn’t just a Hollywood star—he was a role model. His clean-cut cowboy persona, featured in over 100 Western films and the beloved *Roy Rogers Show*, made him an enduring symbol of American heroism, optimism, and perseverance. His influence shaped generations, promoting values of hard work, integrity, and kindness.

Today, Roy is still celebrated in Portsmouth through murals, a dedicated star, an esplanade, and a county road bearing his name. His homestead stands as a testament to the dreams that Ohio nurtures. His story is a reminder that the American dream is real—that a young man from rural Ohio can chase his ambitions all the way to Hollywood and beyond.

Young people today need that message. They need to know that, like Roy, they too can dream big, work hard, and overcome obstacles. His life teaches us to never give up, to put our hearts into everything we do, and to ride through life’s ups and downs with perseverance and grit. House Bill 13 is more than just a commemoration of Roy Rogers’ birthday—it’s a tribute to the values he embodied and an inspiration to future generations. By designating November 5th as “Roy Rogers Day,” we ensure that his legacy, and the lessons it offers, live on.

Thank you and I’d be happy to take any questions.