



Jack Daniels and Bill Roemer State Representatives

June 10th, 2025

Chair Willis, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee—thank you for allowing me and my joint-sponsor, Representative Roemer, to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 259. This bill seeks to designate a portion of State Route 241 in Summit County as the "Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway."

Captain McClimans was a dedicated nurse and courageous soldier who gave his life in service to this country. In every part of his life—whether in the trauma unit at Summa Hospital in Akron or on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan—he lived for others. He lived for his patients, his fellow soldiers, and most of all, for his children.

Captain McClimans commissioned into the United States Army in 2003 after graduating from the University of Akron as a registered nurse. He went on to serve in the 86th Combat Support Hospital, working in the ICU during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His bravery and his compassion are memorialized in the HBO documentary *Baghdad ER*, which depicts the tireless and often heartbreaking work of his unit to save lives in the most grueling of conditions. He was known for staying late to sit with dying soldiers—determined that no one would die alone.

After Iraq, he became the commander of his unit in Twinsburg, Ohio—leading not just with strength, but with empathy. In 2011, he was deployed again, this time to Afghanistan. And on April 22, just two months into that deployment, Captain McClimans was killed by a sniper on his way to work at the base hospital. He was just 30 years old. He was also the first American nurse killed in Afghanistan. Members of the committee, this bill carries with it the voice of his daughter, Emily, who cannot be here in person today but has given us her words to carry forward. And so, with your permission, I'd like to share a portion of her powerful testimony:

“Although many have pledged to defend and protect the nation in which they call home, I am honored to be the daughter of a man who selflessly bled and died for my tomorrow... My father lived for red, white, blue, and freedom. He lived out the commitment he made to defending this nation and to providing a safe place for my brother and I to live.”

I cannot imagine a more powerful reason to name a highway than to preserve the legacy of such a man—a father, a leader, a healer, and a hero.

Designating this portion of State Route 241 in his honor will serve as a daily reminder to all who pass through Summit County of the true cost of freedom—and of the selflessness and love embodied by Captain McClimans.

I respectfully urge this committee to support House Bill 259 so that we, as a state, may play a small part in telling that story for generations to come. Thank you, Chair, and we are happy to take any questions from the committee.



Jack K. Daniels
State Representative- Ohio's 32nd House District



Bill Roemer
State Representative- Ohio's 31st House District