

Joint Sponsor Testimony

Transportation Committee

(HB 325 - Marshal Teddy Ray Holcomb Memorial Highway)

Chair Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim and members of the Transportation Committee.....thank you for allowing us the privilege to introduce legislation for the Trimble Marshal “Teddy” Ray Holcomb Memorial Highway.

We are honored to sponsor this bill at the request of the family of Police Chief Ron Brown whose life was saved and whose family was forever changed due to Marshal Holcomb’s heroic actions.

On Oct 27, 1976 Marshal Holcomb was in the Village of Trimble (Athens County) heading home from his shift with his wife when he heard a call for response to a violent fight at the Shingle Inn in Glouster.

Rookie officer Ronnie Brown was already responding to the call and needed backup. Officer Brown had located the heavily intoxicated suspects in the Trimble Village Park and blocked the park exit with his cruiser.

Marshal Holcomb, with his wife still by his side, headed toward the location to assist Officer Brown. Once on site, he blocked the road with his vehicle outside the park exit.

When Officer Brown ordered the suspects out of their vehicle, the driver attempted to ram Officer Brown. Brown fired five shots to disable the car and avoid being struck. The suspect then took aim at Marshal Holcomb who was able to fire just one shot before the suspect rammed his vehicle, gravely wounding him and injuring his wife, Beverly.

Officer Brown subsequently detained the suspect and began first aid on Marshal Holcomb who had suffered severe leg and head injuries. Officer Brown called for medical support and then provided escort for the ambulance to Columbus University Hospital. Unfortunately, Marshal Holcomb passed away enroute.

Marshal “Teddy” Ray Holcomb made the ultimate sacrifice on Oct 27th, 1976, protecting the citizens of Athens County and saving the life of a fellow law enforcement officer, mentor, and friend.

End Ritter

Start Holmes

Our office is honored to joint sponsor this road naming in Athens County for heroism that occurred almost fifty years ago, because Marshal Holcomb’s actions have had tremendous impact on law enforcement not only in the 97th District (Muskingum and Guernsey Counties) but all across Ohio.

Marshal Holcomb’s selfless sacrifice became a lifetime inspiration for Chief Brown. Following the incident, Chief Brown embarked on over 40 years of service in Law Enforcement including leadership in the Village of Jacksonville, Village of Glouster, City of Nelsonville, Union Twp (Butler Co), the Athens Co Sheriff Dept, and the Village of Chauncey Auxiliary Police Dept.

Chief Brown was also the founding Chief of Police for the Village of Frazesburg in Muskingum County as well as the Village’s Safety Service Director. He also established and was the commander of the Police Academy at the Eastland Career Center as well a substitute teacher at the Mid-East Vocational School in Zanesville. Chief Brown

was also the Director of Investigations and Training for Moling & Associates, and the owner of Safety & Security Training Consultants.

After a lifetime of service, Chief Ron Brown passed away on March 6, 2021. But one of his lifelong commitments was to honor Marshal Holcomb, reflect his character, and preserve his memory.

Chief Brown's family currently lives in Nashport, Ohio and have been patiently working on establishing a Highway Memorial for Marshal Holcomb as part of their father's lifelong desire to permanently acknowledge what Marshal Holcomb did for so many other people. The Brown family has a bible verse specifically meaningful to them all. John 15:13 "Man hath no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends".

We all genuinely appreciate the consideration of this committee to enshrine this idea for all Ohioans for years to come.