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Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 436: Designation of the "Sergeant Earl Frederick Ulmer Memorial Highway"

Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grimm, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 436, legislation to designate a portion of State Route 77 in Washington County as the "Sergeant Earl Frederick Ulmer Memorial Highway."

This legislation honors the life, service, and sacrifice of Earl Frederick Ulmer of Lowell, Ohio, a man whose commitment to his community continued until the very final moments of his life.

Sergeant Ulmer was born on June 26, 1889, the son of Louis and Amanda Lindamood Ulmer. He served both his country and his community with distinction. A veteran and member of the American Legion, he was also a sergeant in the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Beyond his law enforcement service, he operated the Clean Spot service station and restaurant along State Route 77 near Lowell, where he became a familiar and trusted figure to travelers and local residents alike.

On July 12, 1953, Sergeant Ulmer was performing an act of public service that reflected the character of his entire life. After assisting at the scene of a traffic accident and riding with patrol officers, he remained on the highway cleaning broken glass and directing traffic to protect passing motorists. While doing so, he was struck and killed by an automobile.

He died not in retreat from duty, but in the faithful execution of it.

Sergeant Ulmer left behind his wife, Isa Flowers Gill Ulmer, three children, five grandchildren, and a community that deeply mourned his loss. His funeral at St. John's Church in Lowell included both military and Masonic honors, reflecting a life devoted to service, fraternity, and civic responsibility.

This highway designation is more than a sign. It is a permanent reminder that the freedoms and safety we often take for granted have always depended on ordinary Ohioans willing to step forward in service to others. Sergeant Ulmer represented the best traditions of Ohio public service: humility, courage, sacrifice, and duty to neighbor.

By naming this stretch of State Route 77 in his honor, we ensure that future generations traveling through Washington County will remember a man who gave his life protecting the people of his community on that very roadway.

Thank you, Chairman Willis and members of the committee. I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of House Bill 436, and I would be happy to answer any questions.