Sponsor Testimony – H.B. 297

Ohio House Military Affairs Committee

Chair **Richardson**, Vice Chair **Matthews**, Ranking Member **Lawson-Rowe**, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of **HB297** before you today, a small but important change to Ohio law.

Allow me to explain.....

Each county's Board of Commissioners must annually appropriate funds, upon application, to recognized veterans organizations to assist with **Memorial Day** costs.

- Previously the limit on funds has been $500.00.
- Our legislation would double that limit to $1000.00.

Our legislation does not change the requirements already in place to ensure the responsible allocation of these resources. For example, the following rules remain in effect:

- Organizations applying for these funds must submit a statement of expenses incurred to date.
- After the observance, organizations must file a sworn accounting of all expenditures within 60 days of Memorial Day.
- Finally, any unspent funds must be returned to the County.

Again, our legislation is merely a change in the limit of available funds.

In this inflationary environment, we believe a doubling of that amount is both prudent and necessary to support the observance of this very important holiday.

Thank you.