



**Roy Klopfenstein**

**State Representative**

Ohio's 82nd House District

HB 51, Sponsor Testimony: Designate Lt. James A. Kirkendall Memorial Highway

Senate Transportation Committee – April 30, 2025

Chairman Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 51.

This legislation seeks to honor the life and legacy of Highway Patrol Lieutenant James Kirkendall by designating a portion of US Route 33 near St. Johns in his memory. It was along this stretch of highway where Lieutenant Kirkendall tragically lost his life in the line of duty on October 28th, 1970, during an automobile accident while returning from the Highway Patrol Academy. At the time of his death, Lieutenant Kirkendall served as the Van Wert Highway Patrol Post Commander and had been with the Highway Patrol for 21 years.

In addition to his remarkable service to the state, Lieutenant Kirkendall was also a proud World War II veteran. I appreciate the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony and kindly ask for your support of this important legislation. Thank you for your time, and now I will turn things over to my joint sponsor, Representative King.