



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF ELGIN ROGERS JR.
RIFFE GOVERNMENT CENTER, TENTH FLOOR
77 S. HIGH STREET COLUMBUS, OH 43215

House Bill 228 - Designate SSG Jack W. Coy Veterans Memorial Highway

Thank you, Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation committee.

Today, I come before you and ask for your support of House Bill 228 which seeks to honor the memory of one of Ohio's own, **Staff Sergeant Jack W. Coy**, a brave and selfless airman who gave his life in service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Coy, just 20 years old at the time of his death, was born and raised in the Toledo area in Oregon, Ohio. Acting as a tail gunner when his aircraft was shot down over Gotha, Germany, Coy was one of six crewmembers who tragically passed away.

My joint sponsor and I proposed this same piece of legislation during the last general assembly, and it did not make it to the governor's desk. That was hard for me to stomach seeing as this legislation not only honors Mr. Coy but also sends a message to those who are currently serving this county. Jack W. Coy died while serving his country abroad but was never forgotten and his country ensured that he received a proper burial even if that meant transporting remains and using forensic



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technology. This bill is more than just a road naming bill, it's a legacy. By celebrating our fallen heroes, we honor those who currently serve our county and let them know that we don't leave ours behind. We will continue to fight for those who have not been able to return home and those who are actively fighting for our freedom.

The story of SSG Jack W. Coy is an American story that many of our constituents can relate to. Mr. Coy was an orphan who was adopted by his aunt and uncle and made the heroic decision to serve his country. This story was brought to our attention by the Coy family, specifically Mr. Coys great niece Shawnelle Johns who provided a DNA sample for forensic testing which resulted in Mr. Coy being identified with 99% accuracy.

This memorial highway is not just about one man; it is a recognition of the courage of all who have served. It is a reminder to current and future generations of what it means to serve something greater than oneself, and your heroism will not go unnoticed. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I will answer any questions you may have.