

As Offered

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. R. No. 219

Representative Williams

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the Fiftieth Anniversary of the S.S. Edmund
Fitzgerald tragedy and the lives lost.

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the 136th
General Assembly of Ohio commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the
S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* tragedy and the lives lost, including seven
from Northwest Ohio; and

WHEREAS, In its day, the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* was the largest
ship on the Great Lakes. Based out of Cleveland under a permanent
charter of the Oglebay Norton Company, the vessel served several port
cities along the Great Lakes, and during its lifespan, it set six
international hauling records and traveled the equivalent of forty-
four times around the world, earning such nicknames as the "Pride of
the American Side" and the "Toledo Express"; and

WHEREAS, On November 10, 1975, the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* sank in
a storm on Lake Superior with the loss of all twenty-nine crew
members, seven of whom were from Northwest Ohio, including Captain
Ernest McSorley of Ottawa Hills. The ship was the pride of America's
and Ohio's maritime shipping industry, and its loss claimed the lives
of several of our state's most skilled nautical crewmen; and

WHEREAS, The Fiftieth Anniversary of the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald*
tragedy is a somber milestone. The tale of the tragedy was
immortalized in Gordon Lightfoot's song "The Wreck of the *Edmund*
Fitzgerald," and the valiant service and sacrifice of the ship and its
crew have earned them a hallowed place in Ohio's maritime history, a
legacy that will long be remembered by the families of the victims and
the communities served by the *Fitzgerald*; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of

the 136th General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, 26
recognize the Fiftieth Anniversary of the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* 27
tragedy and the lives lost; and be it further 28

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit 29
duly authenticated copies of this Resolution to the news media of 30
Ohio. 31