



**Representative Lisa Sobecki  
House District 45**

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**House Bill 24: Gene Kranz Day Testimony  
March 17, 2021**

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and fellow members of the House State and Local Government Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony today in support of House Bill 24 which designates August 17<sup>th</sup> as “Eugene ‘Gene’ F. Kranz Day” in honor of a NASA pioneer, with my joint sponsor Representative Mike Sheehy.

Gene Kranz was born August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1933 in Toledo, and graduated from Central Catholic High School. He graduated with a Bachelors in Aeronautical Engineering from Parks College in St. Louis, MO and served in the U.S. Air Force before he started working for NASA in 1960. While at NASA, Gene Kranz was the Flight Director for the Gemini missions, Skylab, and most famously Apollo 11 and Apollo 13. Gene Kranz retired from NASA in 1994.<sup>1</sup>

Gene Kranz played an important role in the success of NASA for decades and his contributions rank alongside Neil Armstrong and John Glenn, but not everyone knows that. Everyone knows astronauts. The before mentioned Apollo 11 astronauts walked on the moon. However, I think it’s important to remember it took thousands of men and women to get Apollo 11 to the moon and back. Too often they are overlooked in history books and frankly do not always get the recognition they truly deserve.

House Bill 24 recognizes the contributions Gene Kranz, an American Hero, made to history. In September 2020, the Toledo Express Airport was officially renamed the “Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport.” Last General Assembly, we had introduced this bill as House Bill 358. House Bill 358 was favorably reported by this committee unanimously and was passed by the Ohio House unanimously as an amended bill as well. It had one hearing before a Senate committee but did not cross the finish line.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 24 and I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://history.nasa.gov/SP-4223/ch6.htm>