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State Representative Adam Holmes

97th House District of Ohio

House Bill 102 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 102. This bill would honor the legacy of an American hero by establishing the “SFC Ron Rosser Medal of Honor Recipient Memorial Highway” between mile markers 132 and 133 on I-70. Ron Rosser was a Columbus native working as coal miner when the Korean War broke out in 1950. Though he had already served in the Army prior to the War, he felt called to reenlist after his brother was killed in action.

On January 12, 1952, while assigned to Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment, then Corporal Rosser and his platoon came under intense enemy fire while attempting to seize a key piece of terrain in an area known as the Iron Triangle. Disregarding his own safety, CPL Rosser charged the enemy positions atop the hill three times, each time returning only after he had run out of ammunition and grenades. As American casualties mounted, CPL Rosser made multiple runs through enemy fire to assist his wounded comrades as the platoon withdrew. His Medal of Honor citation reads “This outstanding soldier's courageous and selfless devotion to duty is worthy of emulation by all men. He has contributed magnificently to the high traditions of the military service.”

Mr. Rosser would go on to serve a total of 22 years in the Army, retiring with rank of Sergeant First Class. He would continue his service to the nation as a public speaker and member

of multiple veteran's organizations. He became the first in his family to go to college and established two scholarship funds- one for public service and one in memory of the two brothers he lost in war; the one killed in Korea, and another who was later killed in Vietnam. Mr. Rosser passed away in August, 2020 at the age of 90.

The courage Ron Rosser displayed at on that January day is of the rarest form. Rarer still is a man who, after such a harrowing experience, continued to serve our nation in uniform for decades. His service is indeed worthy of emulation, and I can think of no better way to do so than to name part of our interstate in his honor. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on this bill, I am happy to answer any questions you have.