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State Representative Tom Brinkman, Jr.

27th House District of Ohio

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on House Bill 131.

This bill would designate a portion of United States Route 50 located in Hamilton County as the “Deputy Sheriff Emil Kleinwaechter Memorial Highway.” In July of 1962, the Deputy Sheriff, a former U.S. Army veteran, was tending to an injured citizen who was involved in a serious accident on Wooster Pike. After putting out flares, Deputy Kleinwaechter and another officer were directing traffic around the accident when another car speeding through the area at a high rate, struck the Deputy, killing him instantly and throwing his body 87 feet.

Thankfully, this driver was convicted of a second degree manslaughter charge and sentenced to prison. However, when there is something more we can do to honor the sacrifice of men and women such as Deputy Kleinwaechter, we should not hesitate to act. With the help of the Deputy’s children bringing his story back to the surface, we can memorialize the selflessness he displayed in a permanent way.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.