

**Committees:**

Vice-Chair, Primary & Secondary Education  
Agriculture & Conservation  
Health  
Higher Education & Career Readiness



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**Representative Adam C. Bird**  
**Ohio House District 66**

**Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Bill 250**  
**Before the House Committee on Transportation & Public Safety**

**April 20, 2021**

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Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 250, which will designate a portion of State Route 32 in Batavia Township as the "Deputy Bill Brewer Memorial Highway."

Bill Brewer was born in 1977 and grew up in the community of Williamsburg, Ohio in Clermont County. He attended Williamsburg High School and graduated in 1996, and after graduating joined the Clermont County Sheriff's office on October 19, 1998.

Once while trying to arrest a theft suspect in the line of duty, Deputy Brewer was struck by a car traveling about 30 mph. He survived that incident and was awarded a Merit/Bravery award by the Clermont Chamber of Commerce.

On the night of February 2, 2019, Deputy Sheriff William Lee "Bill" Brewer, Jr. was killed in the line of duty after 20 years of brave and faithful service to the Clermont County Sheriff's Office.

On that night, Pierce Township police officers were dispatched on a welfare check after receiving a 9-1-1 call from a man claiming to be suicidal. Upon arriving at the scene, those police officers requested backup from the Clermont County Sheriff's Special Response Team that Deputy Brewer was a part of. He and his fellow officers were unable to talk the suicidal occupant into surrender.

After additional talks with the suicidal occupant, deputies heard a single gunshot, gurgling noises, and then silence. Deputies were forced to decide between letting him die or possibly falling for a ruse. Doing nothing was not an option, so they entered his apartment to provide assistance.

Once inside, they were ambushed.

The suspect had positioned himself in another room and fired a fusillade of bullets through a wall in an attempt to kill the deputies while streaming live on social media. Deputy Bill Brewer was struck twice and sustained fatal injuries. He was taken to Mercy Hospital in Anderson and pronounced dead shortly after his arrival, the first Clermont County Deputy Sheriff to be killed in the line of duty in over 50 years.

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Deputy Bill Brewer is survived by his wife Jamie and son Braxton. During his funeral, Governor DeWine ordered flags to be lowered to half-staff and the roads between his funeral and his interment were lined with tens of thousands of Clermont Countians.

Designating this highway in memory of Deputy Bill Brewer will be a fitting commemoration of his long and noble service to Clermont County, which tragically ended in the ultimate sacrifice while he was selflessly responding to aid one of his fellow citizens. I thank the committee for its consideration and the opportunity to share Deputy Brewer's story with you today. I humbly ask for your support and would be happy to answer any questions.