

Senate Bill 250

Senator Hoagland Sponsor Testimony

Senate Transportation Committee

October 5th, 2021

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee- Thank you for the opportunity for Senator Gavarone and myself to provide sponsor testimony for S.B. 250.

I would like to start by thanking every one of our men and women who raises their right hand and takes the oath to serve and protect this great nation, under god.

These men and women are Americas Damn Few, the 1%, that protect and defend this nation from enemies both foreign and domestic.

I would like to thank Dick Tobiason, Chairman of Bend Hero's Foundation, who brought this opportunity to our office, where we quickly started legislation to dedicate Ohio's segment of U.S. Highway 20 as "Ohio Medal of Honor Highway."

Mr. Tobiason is an example of a true American Patriot, selfless in the love for his country. Putting this love for his country before himself.

In introducing this bill, we are the last of 12 states to introduce legislation to dedicate our states segment of U.S. Highway 20 as a Medal of Honor highway, completing the dedication of U.S. Highway 20 as Medal of Honor Highway across America, running coast to coast.

We as the State Legislators should feel proud and honored to participate in our nations efforts in recognizing our veterans.

I can assure you that we as a state are doing the right thing in designating our portion of U.S. highway 20 as the Ohio Medal of Honor highway.

We as a community, state, and nation must never forget the sacrifices our American heroes did to protect and defend this nation.

The Medal of Honor is our nation's highest award for valor presented to veterans of the armed forces of the United States for going above and beyond the call of duty, risking their life during combat with an enemy of the United States.

These Medal of Honor recipients and their families have stories that Americans need to listen to.

The weight of this responsibility needs to be shared by all.

I can assure you that each of these Medal of Honor recipients will tell you "I did my job."

I did what I felt needed to be done to protect my fellow teammates.

It was not about me, it was about the person in front, to my right and left, the person behind me.

Stories that tell about the decisions that were made and followed up by actions during a dynamic, highly volatile, life threatening situation.

Stories about a person that took the fight to the enemy. These individuals did what they had to do.

Not to save themselves, but to protect their fellow teammates, and the place we call USA.

The ones that lived throughout their heroic actions will also tell you that a piece of them dies carrying out this enormous act of heroism.

The ones that received the Medal of Honor posthumously must never be forgotten.

Designating a highway that crosses Ohio as a Medal of Honor Highway is a small lift.

This small lift will help tell the stories of our Medal of Honor recipients.

We as Ohio State Legislators should feel proud and honored to do this and we should get this done quickly.

LLTB

God speed.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of this legislation and I would be happy to answer and questions, at this time.