

Thank you Chairman Green, Vice Chairman Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to stand before you today and speak to House Bill 212. This legislation would designate a portion of State Route 16 in Coshocton County as the "S/SGT Paul C. Mardis, Jr. Memorial Highway. Paul grew up in Coshocton and married his high school sweet heart there.

It is our honor to be here today. My name is John Lawrence and my wife is Renee Lawrence. We are the grand parents of S/SGT Paul C. Mardis, Jr. U.S. Army Special Operations - Operational Detachment Alpha 585. We come representing the family and friends of Paul. Paul lost his life doing what he loved with people he loved on the out skirts of Baghdad during operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. I hope you will approve this bill before you to memorialize Paul's bravery and sacrifice.

Paul was a highly decorated Green Beret having received numerous awards including 2 purple hearts, two Bronze Stars one of them with the "v" for valor. He rode in the most exposed position of a Humvee, which hit an IED on May 19, 2004.