Good Morning Chairman Green, Representative Sheehy, Ranking Members and Members of the Transportation Committee,

 Members of the extended Drabik Family in Lucas County are appreciative of your efforts to adopt a resolution in praise of our most famous relative, Sergeant Alexander Albert Drabik, hero of the Remagen Bridge Crossing on March 7, 1945. We join with his daughter, Rita Drabik Wilson, and with Sandra Drabik Collins, first cousin twice removed, in supporting the resolution to keep his memory alive in Ohio because of his bravery and humility during World War II.

 As all of us learn more about Alexander Drabik by gathering information and by talking with people about him, there are three laudable traits in his character.

1. He loved and enjoyed his immediate and extended family from his parents and thirteen

 brothers and sisters through generations of nieces and nephews and cousins.

2. When he was ordered to lead those ten Company A soldiers of the 27th Armored Infantry

 Battalion of the 9th Armored Division across the Ludendorff Railroad Bridge from Remagen,

 Germany to Erpel, Germany on the Rhine River east bank, Sergeant Drabik did not hesitate

 He learned the values of freedom and duty from his immigrant parents who left Poland to

 escape German oppression and to live in freedom in the United States. He was one of many of

 the children of immigrants who fought for European freedom.

3. He never sought recognition for his bravery nor did he ever take advantage of his fame as a

 hero. Whenever he talked about that day in May, he always included those ten men who

 followed him, and together made the capture of that bridge possible. After the war, he lived a

 simple and ordinary life with his wife and daughter and grandchildren back in Holland, Ohio.

 for almost fifty years.

 Thank you for honoring Alexander Drabik.

 Jacqueline Konwinski, grandniece and biographer