As you know, this week we have been remembering the thousands of those who were called to a distant land, many of whom perished on the beaches of Normandy some 75 years ago.

Today we are here to honor someone who did a similar act twenty five years later, and who was killed in action while serving in Vietnam.

PFC Millard Preston Wheeler was a native of Brown County who resided in the Hamersville community while growing up on a small family farm. PFC Wheeler, known by his family and friends as “Preston” attended Hamersville School for twelve years. Preston was the student that, although he was not involved in many extra-curricular activities, was well-known and liked by his fellow students. He was a mild mannered young man with a good work ethic, most likely due to his upbringing on the family farm. His fellow students can vouch for the fact that Preston was a great member of their class who always enjoyed a good joke and who also liked REALLY fast cars.

After graduating in 1967, Preston enlisted in the US Army in the spring of ’69, and was sent to Vietnam as an infantryman on 6/18/69 and was killed in action less than two months later on 8/12/69. PFC Wheeler was awarded the Bronze Star metal with a V clasp for heroism as well as the Purple Heart and other metals.

Preston’s immediate family included his mother, father, one sister and two nieces and a nephew, as well as his fiancé. It should be noted that after Preston’s passing, this particular line of the Wheeler name came to an end, and it is also important to note that today, June 11, Preston would have celebrated his 70th birthday.

We would ask for your support of HB 257, and would like to thank Rep. Doug Green and those who co-sponsored this bill.

In closing, George Skypeck wrote the following piece simply entitled “Soldier”.

I was that which others did not want to be. I went where others feared to go, and did what others failed to do. I asked nothing from those who gave nothing and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness…should I fail. I have seen the face of terror; felt the stinging cold of fear; and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment’s love. I have cried, pained, and hoped…but most of all I have lived times others would say were best forgotten, at least someday I will be able to say that I was proud of what I was…A Soldier.

Respectfully submitted: His fellow classmates and

Debbie Craycraft, Preston’s fiancé.