



**REPRESENTATIVE MARK ROMANCHUK**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 2

**REPRESENTATIVE DON JONES**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 95

HB 780 | designate a bridge along State Route 7 in Marietta as the "Andy Thompson Memorial Bridge."  
Sponsor Testimony  
December 1, 2020

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on HB 780. HB 780 will designate a bridge along State Route 7 in Marietta as the "Andy Thompson Memorial Bridge".

After graduating from Central College in Iowa with a degree in political science and Spanish, Andy spent four years working for the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank in D.C. He returned home to Marietta to raise his family and work at the family business, Bird Watcher's Digest. Before he came to the House, Andy served on the Marietta City Council for three terms.

From 2011 to 2018 Andy served the 93<sup>rd</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> House district. He served on numerous committees throughout his tenure including Agriculture and Rural Development, Public Utilities, Energy and Natural Resources, Finance and Education. He has served as vice chair of the House Agriculture Committee and Chair of the Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture Development and Natural Resources. Andy was a punster that could light up a room. He worked hard for his constituents every day and put over 200,000 miles on his car while serving in the House.

Unfortunately, Andy was taken away from us too soon. He passed away unexpectedly earlier this year on May 13, 2020. Andy was a multi-talented man: husband, father, politician, musician, karaoke singer, pun-filled comedian, businessman, policy nerd, bird watcher, and all-around good guy. The bridge we picked was one of his favorites to run across, and we think it would be fitting for his name to be on that bridge.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we would be happy to answer any questions.