

Memo: Members of the General Government and Agency Review Committee
Kirk Schuring, Chair
From: Christine A. Dietsch
Date: January 17, 2020

Re: S.B. No. 242 Designate Robert G. Heft Day – Written Testimony

It is my pleasure to write to the committee and the sponsor of S.B. 242, Senator Tim Schaffer, in support of designating August 21st as Robert G. Heft Day. Thank you for sponsoring this legislation.

I knew Bob Heft when he was the Mayor of Napoleon. At that time, I served as the President of the Williams County Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO). Although Napoleon is in Henry County, Bob was always supportive of the greater global economic development initiatives of N.W. Ohio. He traveled on more than one occasion with various WEDCO committee members to promote the area.

On one occasion in particular, he traveled with WEDCO promoters of food producers in NW Ohio to attend an International food conference and exhibition in Atlanta, Georgia at the Omni Convention Center. His passion for Henry County food producers was unparalleled. He was so proud of Campbells Soup! There wasn't anything shy about Bob, he didn't know a stranger. And whenever and wherever he traveled he carried USA 50-star flag souvenirs to pass out.

There were many times that he paired up with another "celebrity" of sorts from the Bryan area of Williams County. They were a pair to behold. Charlie Oberlin, better known as "Chicken Charlie", was a producer and international supplier of chicken patties and other chicken products. He was a man of short stature, but as agile as a cricket. Bob, as you know, was a man of rotund stature. When "Chicken Charlie" and Bob would be together walking down the street, locally, at a meeting or in Atlanta, Georgia, they always drew stares from on lookers; the distinction in height and girth was remarkable, but the two personalities together were unmistakably dynamic. Both were great sales men and promoters of good will for the greater N.W. Ohio area.

Bob was regularly invited to Williams County to speak at events about the flag and the need to promote our area. He was a great man, loved life, and certainly loved his country and our flag. It is with pleasure and pride in having known the "legend" of Bob Heft that I support SB 242 designating August 21st as Robert G. Heft Day!

Sincerely,

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