



## FOLDS of HONOR

Central Ohio Chapter – 545 Metro Place S. STE 100 Dublin OH 43017 – 614-659-0035 – [centralohio.foldsofhonor.org](http://centralohio.foldsofhonor.org)

September 2, 2020

Chairman McColley  
Vice Chair Johnson  
Ranking Member Antonio  
Ohio Senate Letter of Support for House Bill 262

I would like to express my thanks to the Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee for the opportunity to provide my letter supporting the Folds of Honor License Plate, House Bill 262. Below is background on Folds of Honor.

The Folds of Honor Foundation, a national charity was established by US Air Force Lt. Col. Dan Rooney in 2007. In 2006, on a flight home from Chicago to Grand Rapids Michigan, United Flight 664, after completing his second tour of duty in Iraq, Lt. Col. Rooney heard the United Airlines Pilot come over the intercom announcing we have an American Hero on-board and requested that all passengers stay seated until the remains of Army Corporal Brock Bucklin could be removed from the cargo hole of the plane. His identical twin brother, Corporal Brad Bucklin who was seated in the front of the plane, had brought him those 7000 miles home. As the flag draped casket crept slowly down the conveyer, on the family's darkest night stood on the tarmac a four-year-old boy awaiting the body of his Father. The finality of the sacrifice and the reality that this little boy would never play catch, never go get ice cream, and never be tucked in at night by his Dad. As the ceremony finished up, wiping the tears from his eyes, and recognizing what had just been witnessed, the other side of War. Grabbing his backpack and looking around the plane, only to see that more than half of the plane had departed. No place to go except that blanket of Freedom that we all sleep under each and every night courtesy of the 1% of this country that suit up every day willing to defend and pay the ultimate sacrifice for the other 99%. Lt. Col. Rooney summed up these events in one word, "synchronicity" or a chance with a purpose and this was his moment of synchronicity. Lt. Col. Rooney founded the Folds of Honor Foundation, a non-profit dedicated and accountable to providing educational scholarships to the families of those killed or wounded in service to our country. Since 2007, more than 24,500 scholarships have been awarded, but the need is still great. 109 Scholarships were awarded to Ohio Military family's spouses and children for the 2019/20 school year.

Our Central Ohio Chapter of Folds of Honor was established in 2018 with one noble goal, to make sure we create a continuous opportunity of raising money so to not leave one Military spouse or child behind without educational assistance due to lack of funding. In 2019, there were nationally 700 scholarships that would have been awarded but due to a funding shortage of \$3,500,000, offers could not be made.

The Folds of Honor License Plate, House Bill 262 will help our Chapter to raise money in support of our noble cause, to help the 1% that have so dearly given their all for the rest to enjoy the Freedoms and Liberties we enjoy today. 100% of the proceeds received from this license plate bill will go to cover the educational assistance needs of our Military families who were stationed in, current residents in or from Ohio.

Honor Their Sacrifice – Educate Their Legacy

Thank you for your attention to this great charitable organization.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lancia  
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