5th House District

Columbiana County

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-8022
Rep05@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov



Tim Ginter

Speaker Pro-Tempore State Representative, 5th District

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April 14, 2021 House Bill 190 Sponsor Testimony

Thank you Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Loychik and members of the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee for allowing us to testify today on House Bill 190.

I am honored to be a sponsor of this legislation and want to thank my joint sponsor Representative Adam Miller for his work on this issue.

War relics are important because they act as historical touchstones. By linking the past to the present these relics can be an important source of information for young people in understanding the sacrifices made by past generations for freedom and play a vital role in ensuring those sacrifices are not forgotten.

In the State of Ohio, there have been several examples of war relics going to private speculators, and a similar situation is occurring nationwide. War relics are being sold off at record prices.

These historical relics were dedicated to honor the sacrifice of our military members and educate the public. Often, however, they are being targeted by predatory buyers and collectors who seek to either exploit or place them in private collections where the public cannot see and learn from them. These historic items are part of Ohio's history and should be protected.

War relics provide and invaluable educational opportunity and a constant reminder of the cost of war. My joint sponsor, Representative Miller, will explain more of the details of the bill.