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Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 741
Before the House Committee on Armed Services and Veterans Affairs
November 29, 2022

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Loychik, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 741: Designating Yellow Ribbon Day.

On April 9th 2004, Army Staff Sergeant Matt Maupin became the first American Prisoner of War in Operation Iraqi Freedom when his fuel convoy was attacked. Insurgents attacked his convoy of south Baghdad and he was killed while in captivity. His remains were later recovered in 2008 by U.S. Armed Forces.

Staff Sergeant Maupin was a beloved resident of Batavia Ohio, in the 66th District which I am proud to serve. His family is well honored and cared for in our community, and it is with their approval and support that we would like to designate April 9th as Yellow Ribbon Day. Staff Sergeant Maupin's father has seen the yellow ribbon as a part of his life since his son first deployed nearly 20 years ago. The symbolic yellow ribbon, first introduced during the Iranian Hostage Crisis, is often tied to a tree or worn on clothing, and it has become a symbol of support for those serving in armed forces and their families.

Keith Maupin has dedicated his life to supporting U.S. troops with the Yellow Ribbon Support Center. When his son was taken captive in 2004, his close knit community and family began sending care packages in an effort to locate their son. The Yellow Ribbon Support Center continues to educate and raise awareness and has sent over 26,000 care packages to troops serving overseas. Clermont County has lost 12 sons in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, which is one of the highest totals in Ohio for a county. Chuck Kiser, Nick Erdy, Jacob P. Dohrenwend, Joseph Bauer, Philip McNeill, James Missman, David Seth Mitchell, Billy Spencer, Tyler Swisher, Bryan Naylor, and Tony Wojciechowski.

I encourage you to join Representative Lipps and myself as we honor these men, their families, and the thousands of military families not only across Ohio but across our country. We promise to never forget the young men of Ohio's sacrifice, and hope to designate this day of remembrance every year on April 9th as "Yellow Ribbon Day".



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Chair Ghanbari and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation today. I am happy to answer any questions.