



Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur

99th House District

Sponsor Testimony

H.B 258

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee; I am pleased to bring before you today House Bill 258 and I thank you for your time. House Bill 258 would designate a bridge over Conneaut Creek in Ashtabula County as the "Sgt. Thomas Cole Walker Memorial Bridge". Stg. Walker passed away in a training accident at Fort Stewart, Georgia on October 20, 2019. Stg. Walker joined the army after high school. During his career he received the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, received his Sharpshooter qualification badge with his bar inscribed "Carbine" and will now receive the Army Commendation Medal.

Stg. Walker was described as passionate, selfless, and had an infectious smile everyone loved. Stg. Walker lived life with passion and exuberance. He was a presence in everyone's life constantly showing up and serving his community. He left behind a wife of 6 months as well as his parents and siblings. He was an amazing young man so it is fitting that his friends and family have a bridge named in his honor as a lasting tribute to Sgt. Walker's devotion and sacrifice.