

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee,

It is an honor to propose this legislation that recognizes the many brave men and women from my county that have made countless sacrifices while proudly serving our great nation. Geauga County has a strong veteran history spanning from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terrorism. It was founded by veterans, and it is our job to preserve this history so all of our residents and visitors never forget our legacy of service.

Within Geauga County, we have multiple townships that were founded by and named after veterans. Bainbridge Township, named for Commodore William Bainbridge of the US Navy; and Munson Township, originally named MacDonough after U.S. Naval Commander Thomas MacDonough are examples of townships whose names are steeped in our rich military history. Further, in 2009, the Geauga Veteran Memorial was erected that bears the name of more than 18,000 veterans, as well as other highways memorializing soldiers killed in action and the Union forces who served in the Civil War.

We currently have over 5,400 veterans living in Geauga County, and our residents are fiercely proud of them. There is no time like the present to recognize Geauga County's veterans and designate State Route 44, between U.S. Route 322

and State Route 87, “Veterans Legacy Highway.” This portion of SR44 runs past the Geauga County Veterans Memorial Park and the Geauga Park District’s Veterans Legacy Park and will create a lasting legacy for our veterans and show them that their sacrifice and service will not be forgotten. Thank you for listening to my testimony on House Bill 584, I would be happy to take any questions.