



Kristin Boggs

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18th House District

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you so much for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 590, which would designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the “Murray Ebner, Holocaust Survivor and Korean War Veteran, Memorial Highway” to honor Murray Ebner’s remarkable life and service to protect our country.

Murray Ebner was born in Wischniz Nowy, Poland, in 1928. He was only 13 ½ when he was sent to his first concentration camp. Murray survived four years of Nazi enslavement by working in four different sub-camps of Auschwitz from age 13 to 17. In the spring of 1945, he was forced on a death march out of Birkenau. After hiding in a barn, he was able to escape the Nazis along with three others from a group of about 150. Murray was the sole survivor of his family.

Murray immigrated to the United States in 1947, where he would eventually live with distant relatives in Springfield, OH. After several months in Springfield, he moved to Columbus, OH and attended school at South High School. Despite not knowing any English, Murray soon advanced through the grades becoming a high school senior at age 22.

On his 22nd birthday, Murray was drafted into the US Army for the Korean Conflict, where he served for 2 years in Germany protecting the Germans from the Russians, where just a few years prior he was liberated by the Russians from the Germans. Murray bravely went to war to protect his new country, even though he was not a U.S. citizen. Once his tour of duty

was done, Murray moved back to Columbus, got married, had three children, and started a career that he loved for over 60 years.

Murray initially did not speak about his experiences during the Holocaust, thinking it would bring too much pain to those who listened to the atrocities. However, 34 years after WWII ended, Murray's son's friend asked him to speak at a high school. He said no at first, but then realized that maybe this was why he had survived. Murray said he would answer questions, and soon enough he was speaking. He spoke to schools, churches, universities, and civic groups all around the country. He spoke to thousands of people, and each time he spoke, people would run up to him afterward and ask if they could have a picture with him or shake his hand. People would now know that the Holocaust happened and they were lucky enough to meet a Holocaust survivor.

Murray developed an Emmy award winning documentary "A Survivor's Journey" and wrote a biography "Chosen for Reasons Unknown, a Holocaust Survivor's Journey." He felt it was "his responsibility to bear witness. This is why G-d saved me."

He was a family man, religious man, and a philanthropic man. He had no enemies and everyone who met him felt his warmth, his humor, and thought they were lucky to be around him. Murray left behind his wife of 62 years, Sylvia, their three children Mark, Lisa, and Cynthia, and six grandchildren, Gayle, Aaron, Jared, Zachary, Julian, and Sabrina.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 590 to honor Murray Ebner's life. I would be happy to answer any questions committee members may have at this time.