

Robert Derga
4051 Bell Flower LN
Uniontown, OH 44685

**Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Senate Bill 289 — Supporting Testimony
November 15, 2022**

Chairman Baldrige and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present my written testimony concerning Senate Bill 289, Designate Corporal Dustin A. Derga Memorial Highway

I am the father of Marine CPL Dustin Derga who gave his life in Iraq on Mother's Day, May 8, 2005. Dustin proudly served with Lima Company 3/25 Marines who are based in Columbus. He was the first of 23 from Lima who were killed in action during their 7 month deployment in Al Anbar province, Iraq

Senate Bill 289 would designate the portion of Interstate 70 in Fairfield County as the "Corporal Dustin A. Derga Memorial Highway". I feel strongly this bill should be passed. Not only did Dustin give his life to his nation as a Marine, he also served Ohio and Fairfield County as a volunteer firefighter in Basil Twp. The state of Ohio and Fairfield County needs a permanent remembrance of Dustin's heroic service and selfless sacrifice.

Dustin often traveled this very section of I-70 in his red Jeep. My hope is all that travel this stretch of highway take time to remember not only Dustin, but all of Ohio's brave service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

I humbly request the accompanying document I wrote in 2007 be read during this hearing to give you a better idea of Dustin's whole story and why this bill should be passed

Thank you Chairman Baldrige and members of the committee for this opportunity to provide my testimony in support of this bill. I humbly request its passage.

Robert Derga
Proud Gold Star Father of Cpl Dustin Derga, USMC

