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Agriculture & Natural Resources
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Sponsor Testimony – Senate Bill 283
House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Senator Sandra O'Brien
November 15, 2022

Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to deliver sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 283.

Senate Bill 283 would dedicate the stretch of State Route 84 between its intersections with State Road and Blake Road in Ashtabula Township in Ashtabula County as the “World War II Veterans Memorial Highway.” The idea for this bill came to my office from a 91-year-old former constituent of my district named Betty Corlew Emery who had three brothers serve in the U.S. military. One of her brothers, Sgt. Raymond Allen Corlew, was killed in combat in Luxembourg on February 11, 1945, at the age of twenty-one. Her brother-in-law, Pvt. Archie Leroy Emery, was also killed in combat in the European Theatre of World War II, on April 11, 1945, in Germany, just weeks before the German Army finally surrendered. Pvt. Emery died on his daughter’s second birthday, and left two other children behind as well.

This legislation will serve as a simple and clear reminder of just how much we owe to those who answered the call when our country was attacked and the world was being consumed by grave threats. My district has a proud history of honoring the Veterans who fought and served in World War II; look no further than the annual D-Day reenactment which takes place in the city of Conneaut, not too far from Ashtabula Township. As the daughter of a World War II Veteran myself, this topic carries special significance for me. The Ashtabula Township Board of Trustees has unanimously passed a resolution in support of this proposal. It was passed unanimously by the Senate Transportation Committee and then by the Senate, and there are no opponents.

Thank you again, Chair Baldrige, for allowing me to give sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 283. I am happy to answer any questions from the Committee.