

29TH HOUSE DISTRICT

PARTS OF HAMILTON COUNTY
INCLUDING: CITY OF CINCINNATI, CITY OF
HARRISON, AND COLERAIN, CROSBY,
HARRISON, MIAMI, AND WHITEWATER
TOWNSHIPS

COMMITTEES

AGING, FAMILIES, AND HUMAN SERVICES
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State Representative Cindy Abrams Ohio House of Representatives

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and Members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee – thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 736, legislation that will designate a portion of I-71 in Hamilton County as the “Patrolman David L. Cole Memorial Highway.”

At the age of 24, after serving just one year in the Ohio National Guard and 5 years as a Patrolman, David Cole was murdered on July 17th, 1974 while responding to an attempted robbery near Florence Avenue in Cincinnati.

Patrolman Cole entered the police academy in 1969, following in the footsteps of his father, Cincinnati Patrolman Jim Cole. In 1972, David Cole married his high school sweetheart, Cheryl, and they were married nearly two years before Patrolman Cole’s tragic death. A loving husband, devoted son and brother, an exceptional police officer, and a hero – the void created by Patrolman Cole’s death can never be filled, but his memory lives on in the minds and hearts of those who loved him, especially his dear wife Cheryl. It is my esteemed honor to be one of those people and share his story with all of you.

Becoming a police officer is a true act of service. The citizens of our communities place in the hands of their police officers a sacred trust – to protect and serve. Every police officer recognizes this tremendous responsibility and they answer the call to serve daily. They also recognize that a day may come where this job will demand everything in return.

You will find written testimony on your iPads from Cheryl Cole-Candelaresi, Patrolmen Cole’s wife, and Tom Waller, a dear friend of Patrolman Cole – they started in the police academy together in 1969 and remained friends in their years to come. Tom and Cheryl are unable to be here today, but I would like to share a few words from their remarks.

Cheryl shared: “There hasn’t been a word invented yet to describe the pain in my heart then and continues to be there ever since David was murdered. The nightmare of that time never has gone away... I am so happy for David to get this honor. He certainly deserves it.”

Tom shared: “On July 20, 1974 – exactly five (5) years after he began his career, David Lee Cole was buried. I had the honor, and privilege, to carry him to his grave. It is a day I will never, ever, forget. He was only 24.”

This Memorial Highway will serve to honor Patrolman Cole and will serve as a reminder of heroic efforts. He paid the ultimate sacrifice, which has gone unrecognized for nearly fifty years, and this legislation seeks to finally honor that sacrifice.

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to honor Patrolman Cole, today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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