



State Representative Marilyn John State Representative Beth Lear

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Grim and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

Representative Lear and I present to you House Bill 55 for your consideration, a bill to name the portion of State Route 97 between Butler and Belville Ohio in Richland County "Firefighter Charles D. Swank Memorial Highway".

Charles Swank was a natural leader at home and in his community. He was a faithful Christian, a husband and father, a decorated Army veteran, and a firefighter.

The attack on 9/11 prompted Charles to immediately enlist. Sergeant and jumpmaster of the 82nd Airborne Division. During his service he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device "V", Army Commendation Medal, Valorous Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He was honorably discharged on May 19, 2006.

Following in his father's footsteps, Charles became a firefighter/paramedic when his military service was over. He and his wife Alaina moved home to Butler, Ohio, and he began working on his fire science degree and medic school. Charles worked for Mifflin Township, Mount Vernon and Washington Township Fire Departments in Dublin. It was during that service to his fire department that he unexpectedly lost his life.

Charles gave of himself to his wife, children Jaxon, Kasey, Haylee, Trey and Troy, his church, his community, his fire department and his country. It is an honor for Representative John and I to have the opportunity to acknowledge the service of this great American and fellow Ohioan.

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Grim and Members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill, and we are happy to answer any questions.