



Representative Gail Pavliga

Chair McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, and Ranking Member Grim, and Members of the House Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 251. This bill will designate a portion of state route 88 in Portage County after Ravenna Police Officer James R Wert.

Officer James Wert was appointed to the Ravenna Police Department on February 1st 1980 after serving in the U.S. Army where he earned the Army Good Conduct Medal and was an expert marksman at Ft Hood.

After James was honorably discharged from the Army he chose to move back to Ravenna and become a police officer to be close with his family and serve the area where he grew up.

Around Midnight on January 31st in 1981 patrolman Wert stopped a suspected drunk driver. After proceeding with the arrest James proceeded to State Route 88, he pulled off to adjust the arrested party's handcuffs.

A struggle ensued and additional Ravenna police officers arrived to assist Wert. At the time a second drunk driver went left of center of rt 88 and stuck James Wert. Officer Wert was only 25 when he was killed in the line of duty.

Thank you again to Chairman McClain and the members of the House Transportation Committee. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.