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Richland County

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Committees

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Development

Infrastructure

Insurance

Transportation

**Marilyn John**  
State Representative

Chair McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee: Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony for HB 252. This bill will designate State Route 39 In Richland County between State Route 430 and Interstate 71 as the “SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty Jr. Memorial Highway.” Cornelius was a graduate of Madison High School, east of Mansfield, in 1958. He served in the Navy from 1960 until he was killed in action on February 17, 1969. At the time of his death, he was a Signalman First Class Petty Officer and had been in Vietnam for only 6 weeks on his second mission.

I had the chance to learn more about Mr. McCafferty and his service to our country that I wanted to share with the committee. He was often referred to as the “Old Man” in his unit because he was 29 years old, and the others were closer to 18-21. However, his service proves that with age comes wisdom because he was a purple heart recipient and made several heroic actions before he was killed. While on this second and final mission in Vietnam, he rescued the crew on another river boat that had caught fire. This occurred the day before he died.

Chair McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the Committee: Thank you again for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on HB 252, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.