

## 81st House District

Henry County

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## James Hoops State Representative

Chair McClain, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on House Bill 293 which would establish the “Marjorie Whiteman Memorial Highway”.

Dr. Marjorie Whiteman, a native of Liberty Center, Ohio, was a key author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, also known as the Magna Carta. Born in 1898, Whiteman was a hardworking and intellectual woman who excelled in school and law. After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University, she taught history and public speaking at Napoleon Schools. Teachers at Napoleon encouraged her to pursue her education, leading her to pursue a career in law at Yale.

After graduating, she worked for the U.S. State Department in diplomacy and Latin American relations. She authored the Digest of International Law, known as "The Whiteman's," and was involved in the legal decisions of the U.S. Department of State. Whiteman was often involved in the making of history, including discussing legal options for response to the Pearl Harbor attack. After World War Two, Whiteman became the legal advisor to former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, focusing on the formation of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The designation of the “Marjorie Whiteman Memorial Highway” would stretch along State Route 109. It would begin North of Liberty Center at the corner of County Roads V and 10, where the childhood home of Marjorie still stands today, and would end just South of Liberty Center at County Road S.

Marjorie offered her knowledge, ambition, and strong leadership qualities to help mold the state and the nation that we live in today due to her unforgettable contributions. This Highway is one way that we can truly honor and remember her accomplishments.

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 I would be happy to answer any questions.

