



**JEAN SCHMIDT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 268, to designate a portion of State Route 32 as the Richard "Dick" Mallon Memorial Highway.

Dick Mallon was a veteran. In 1952, he joined the United States Navy at the age of seventeen. He was assigned to the San Diego Special Weapons Unit Pacific (SWUPAC) and later transferred to the USS Hancock CVA-19, where he trained on atomic warheads. He was honorably discharged in 1956. Not only did Mr. Mallon serve his country, but he also served his community. He was President of the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce in 1976 and served on its Board of Directors for almost ten years. He was a visionary. In 1980, he and Ed Parish established a county-wide committee to look at Clermont County's future and see where it will be in the year 2000. From that study, LEAD Clermont was formed. Like LEAD Ohio, a group of citizens work for a year studying the nuances of Clermont County.

Mr. Mallon actively took part in the Chamber's community events until his passing in 2022. He helped co-found and lead the Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau in the 1980, was a founding member of the Clermont County Law Enforcement Appreciation Association in 1983, and a co-founder of the Cincinnati Regatta at East Fork State Park in 1981.

Apart from the many board memberships that he held, Dick was also a friend. He cared deeply about his community and worked to put Clermont County on a path towards growth. We see the results of his work today. I do not know if we can ever fully appreciate the many contributions that Dick Mallon has given to his community. Naming a portion of this highway in his honor is but one way to recognize him and his talents. Thank you for your time and I ask for your support in passing this bill.