

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak on HB 299, which renames a stretch of State Route 7 between archers fork road and Grandview hill road in Washington County the Frederick Wayne Taylor Memorial Highway.

Frederick Wayne Taylor, nicknamed "Butch", was born in Marietta, OH on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1944. From all accounts, Butch Taylor always carried a smile on his face and never said a bad word about anyone.

At just 23 years old, Butch joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, A troop, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the United States Army. Unfortunately, along with 4 other American Soldiers, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1968 he was killed in action in the Ho Bo Woods.

Like so many of his generation, Specialist 5 Frederick Wayne Taylor was taken too early while serving in the Vietnam War. SP5 Taylor is forever memorialized on panel 61E Line 3 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Young people today can learn a lot from the sacrifice of Butch Taylor. When your country calls upon you, there is nothing more heroic than answering the call and making the ultimate sacrifice. If Butch Taylor were alive today, he would have just celebrated his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday. Instead, while just a young man at the age of 23, he died serving his country.

Today I would urge support for this bill, to remember the sacrifice of Butch Taylor and all veterans who served and died protecting our country in the Vietnam War. In an age when it can be difficult to identify who the heroes are, when young people drive along this stretch of State Route 7, they will know the name of a true American Hero.

Thank you.