



Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 335

Representative DJ Swearingen

89th House District

House Transportation Committee

Chairman McClain, Vice-Chair Dobos, Ranking-Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 335 that would designate a portion of State Route 163 in Ottawa County as “Ottawa County Veterans Memorial Highway.”

This bill has the endorsement of the Ottawa County Commissioners, in large part to the county’s storied history. On September 10th, 1813 nine vessels under the command of Commodore Oliver Perry defeated six vessels from Great Britain’s Royal Navy near Put-In-Bay. Since that date Ottawa County has sent thousands of its men and women to defend our great nation. Currently over 3,000 veterans call Ottawa County home out of a population of roughly 40,000.

There are numerous stories of bravery. These range from Civil War veteran Louis Shepard being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor to Army SGT Keith Kline of Oak Harbor making the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom. There is also the tragic story of 192nd Tank Battalion from Port Clinton enduring the Bataan Death March while POWs for three years during World War II.

Renaming this highway helps keep the memories and sacrifices of these brave men and women alive in the hearts of minds of not only their many families but also as a general testament to the fortitude of Ohioans as a whole.

Thank you, Chairman McClain, Vice-Chair Dobos, Ranking-Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee for an opportunity to speak today. I am happy to take any questions you may have.