



State Representative Tim Barhorst

*House Bill 365 Sponsor Testimony
House Transportation Committee
January 16, 2023*

Chairman McClain, Vice-Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 365 to designate three memorial highways in honor of three local heroes in the 85th District.

The first highway is part of the southern portion of U.S. Route 68 in Champaign County to be named in honor of Army Corporal Charles E. Hiltbran of Cable, Ohio - a Korean War veteran whose remains were one of the 55 recovered in an agreement brokered in 2018 by President Trump between the United States and North Korean governments.

Prior to the recovery process, Corporal Hiltbran was designated as Missing in Action (MIA) for 68 years since December 2nd, 1950, near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea when his unit was attacked by enemy forces. He was only 19 years old at the time.

I was honored to attend the ceremony with the family and the local community where Corporal Hiltbran was returned home and finally laid to rest in Champaign County.

The second highway is part of the northern portion of U.S. Route 68 in Logan County to be named in honor of Private First-Class Herbert S. Bechtel of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Private Bechtel was a machine-gunner deployed in Vietnam during the height of the war, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1968, and inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame in 2022.

He was Killed in Action (KIA) in 1966 while providing cover fire towards enemy forces so that his fellow soldiers and those wounded could safely retreat. Private Bechtel did this despite injuries sustained from a grenade explosion near his station and was recovered with "his finger still on the trigger and his ammunition expended" per his service report. His actions that day saved the lives of numerous American soldiers.

The family, along with our counterparts in Congress, are currently working towards the long process for Private Bechtel to be awarded posthumously for the Medal of Honor. I want to thank Jodi Prater, Private Bechtel's sister, for making the trip from Logan County to be in committee this afternoon amidst today's weather.

The third highway is a stretch of State Route 235 in Logan County named in honor of Patrolman Frank J. Hossler of the Ohio Highway State Patrol. Stationed at the Bellefontaine Post,

Patrolman Hossler died after being struck by a car while on patrol on a Saturday evening in 1956.

He had less than one year into the job and this designation will be within the portion of State Route 235 where the accident occurred. Patrolman Hossler was a veteran of the United States Marine Corp. who was awarded the Purple Heart and survived by his expectant wife.

Chairman McClain, Vice-Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 365 to honor these three heroes to both our state and nation.