



Representative Sean Patrick Brennan
14th House District
Serving Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland's West Park

SPONSOR TESTIMONY: H.B. 381

2-13-24

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the Ohio House of Representatives Transportation Committee. Thank you very much for placing H.B. 381 on your agenda and for allowing me the honor to pay tribute to a great Ohioan.

March 7, 2023, was to be a typical day at work for Louis Paul Shuster, a proud member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainman (BLET) and President of Division 607 in Cleveland. Sadly, the day would turn very tragic. Brother Lou was riding his Norfolk-Southern railcar near the Cleveland Cliffs steel mill in Cleveland, when around 1:19 am a dump truck driver stopped at a stop sign at the railroad tracks and then proceeded forward, striking the front left side of the first train car. Shuster was positioned on the outside of the train car and was struck and crushed. Brother Lou was only 46 years old.

Beginning his railroad career as a conductor in 2005, after serving our country in the US Army, Brother Lou was promoted to locomotive engineer in 2014. He became a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen in 2016 and served on the Board as the Veterans Affairs Delegate for Norfolk-Southern and the Wheeling-Lake Erie. He was a resident of Broadview Heights and a 1995 graduate of South High in Cleveland.

At home, Brother Lou was a son and caregiver for his parents, Louis and Paulette, a father of 16-year-old Ethan, and a loving brother. The Shuster family is incredibly close, with three generations living together, as Lou shared a home with his brother George, who sadly died a couple of months earlier, his son Ethan, and his parents. He was also the dearest brother of Annie Frazee, and uncle to Christopher, Nicholas, Katherine and Benjamin.

Pat Redmond, local chairman of BLET Division 607, says that Brother Lou "was a passionate and dedicated union brother. He was always there for his co-workers. He was very active in helping veterans who worked on the railroad and veterans all across our community."

Something I have learned about BLET over the past several months is the family culture there is among the members. For instance, Brother Lou's colleagues Alan Thompson and Pat Redmond raised over \$50,000 to help with funeral expenses and to support Ethan's continuing needs.

Committees:

State and Local Government
-Ranking Member
Pensions
Primary and Secondary Education
Public Utilities
Ways & Means

77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan

Contact Information:

614-466-3485
Rep14@ohiohouse.gov

This honor is appropriate for many reasons, including the fact that a sign has been sent to us due to the fact that today is Brother Lou's birthday. Further, the exit we are proposing to designate in Brother Lou's honor is where many of his fellow BLET brothers and sisters get off of I-480 to get to the train yard located right off of the highway on Cleveland's West 150th Street. Not to mention, his life of service to our country in so many capacities.

I want to thank John Esterly, Chairman of the BLET Ohio State Legislative Board, for advocating for this legislation on behalf of his BLET brother. I was very honored when he asked if I would carry it. I would also like to thank the 43 bipartisan group of co-sponsors who took my calls, answered my texts, and expressed their condolences to the Shuster and BLET families. Thank you Chairman McClain for speaking to me in advance of this hearing and for placing it on your agenda. You are a good man. And, thank you members of the committee for your consideration.

In designating exit 12A on I-480 in Cleveland as the "Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange" we will honor and cherish him as a father, a son, a brother, a veteran and laborer. May this serve as an enduring reminder of his life and work.

February 13, 1977 ~ March 7, 2023 (age 46)



The banner features the BLET logo on the left, which includes two horses and the text "Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen" and "IBT". To the right of the logo, the text reads "Deepest Condolences from the BLET National Division". Below this, a yellow box contains the text "IN THE LINE OF DUTY". Underneath, the name "Louis P. Shuster" is written in large white letters, followed by "1977-2023" in yellow. Below that, it says "President, BLET Division 607 (Cleveland, Ohio)" in white. At the bottom, "NORFOLK SOUTHERN CONDUCTOR" is written in yellow. On the right side of the banner is a portrait of Louis P. Shuster, a man with short grey hair and a goatee, wearing a black polo shirt, with his hands clasped in front of him.

As Introduced 135th General Assembly Regular Session

H. B. No. 381 2023-2024

Representative Brennan

Cosponsors: Representatives Abrams, Baker, Bird, Blackshear, Brent, Brewer, Brown, Carruthers, Creech, Dell'Aquila, Demetriou, Dobos, Forhan, Grim, Gross, Hall, Hillyer, Isaacsohn, Jarrells, John, Johnson, Lampton, Liston, Manning, McNally, Miller, A., Miller, J., Miller, K., Miranda,

Mohamed, Piccolantonio, Pizzulli, Ray, Santucci, Skindell, Somani, Sweeney, Troy, Upchurch, Weinstein, White, Williams, Young, T.

A BILL To enact section 5534.966 of the Revised Code to designate the interchange of I-480 and West 150th Street in Cleveland as the "**Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange.**"

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO: Section 1. That section 5534.966 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: Sec. 5534.966. The interchange of interstate route number four hundred eighty and west one hundred fiftieth street, located in the municipal corporation of Cleveland in Cuyahoga county, shall be known as the "Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange."

The director of transportation may erect suitable markers at the interchange indicating its name.

