

Good afternoon, Chair McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee. My name is Patrick Redmond, and I am the Local Chairman of Division 607 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen representing the greater Cleveland Area. I am here today to offer proponent testimony for House Bill 381, which would designate the off ramp from I-480 to West 150th Street as the Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange. Lou was a member and officer in my division, and was a longtime friend.

When I called Lou's son, Ethan, to ask him about starting this process of naming part of a highway in honor of his dad. He was thrilled and honored. I could tell it meant a lot to him to know that his dad's memory would live on and that his friends cared about him. Naming a portion of a highway is something Lou would have thought of if any of his coworkers, union brothers or sisters, or veterans had tragically lost their lives, too. Lou was a very thoughtful and caring man who helped many people. It didn't matter if he knew them or not. Lou was an army veteran who worked in his union capacity to help veterans navigate VA benefits and the railroads. He was an active member of his church, St Peter and Paul, as a volunteer with the youth ministry.

He loved his family. Raising his son, Ethan, caring for his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Shuster, and being a loving brother, uncle, and cousin. He also loved baseball, gardening, scuba diving, Ham radio, and, a surprise to me, the Cleveland Orchestra. I wish I could have seen him dressed up and enjoying a night at severance hall. When I first learned about his new passion, it was because he tried making an illegal seniority move to go to a concert and got caught. Long story short, I smoothed everything over, only for Lou to stand fast and go to the concert anyway. But that was Lou; if he was passionate about something, he was all in.

I want to thank our sponsor, Representative Sean Brennan, and all the co-sponsors and supporters. In closing, I want to wish Lou a Happy Birthday, as today would be his 47th birthday. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee might have.