

## Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

H.B. 81 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

# **Final Analysis**

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Primary Sponsors: Reps. Robb Blasdel and Jones

Effective date: March 20, 2025

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**UPDATED VERSION\*** 

#### **SUMMARY**

Designates multiple memorial highways, bridges, and similar locations.

#### **DETAILED ANALYSIS**

### **Memorial designations**

The act designates the following highways, bridges, and similar locations. It authorizes the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along those locations indicating their names.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
Jackson Township Veterans Memorial Parkway <sup>1</sup>	The eastbound and westbound lanes of Fulton Road NW, between Arlington Avenue NW and Wales Avenue NW, in Stark County	
U.S. Army Private First Class Jerry Bockbrader Memorial Highway <sup>2</sup>	The portion of State Route (SR) 199, running in a northerly and southerly direction, between West South Boundary Street and SR 105, in Wood County	PFC Jerry Bockbrader was serving with the U.S. Army when he was killed in action by communist forces on September 18, 1967, in Thua

<sup>\*</sup> This version updates the effective date.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 5534.131.

February 26, 2025

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> R.C. 5534.105.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
		Thien Province, Republic of South Vietnam. PFC Bockbrader was investigating a suspicious person when he was killed by an enemy grenade.
PFC Richard 'Rick' Wesley McFarland Memorial Highway <sup>3</sup>	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 39, between Mansfield Lucas Road and Smart Road, in Richland County	PFC Richard 'Rick' Wesley McFarland served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was killed in action by communist forces on August 10, 1970.
SPC Connor Wilson-Reichert Memorial Highway <sup>4</sup>	The westbound and eastbound lanes of SR 283, between East 250 <sup>th</sup> Street and Eastbrook Drive, in Cuyahoga County	SPC Connor Wilson-Reichert served as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician in the U.S. Army from 2013 to 2016, including during operations in Afghanistan. He lost his battle with PTSD and took his own life on February 14, 2020.
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Memorial Highway <sup>5</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of I-77, between I-76 and Lovers Lane, in Akron, OH	American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is a nonprofit organization of mothers whose sons and daughters served in the U.S. armed forces and either died while on active duty, died as a result of their service, or went missing in action.
Patrolman William J. Keller Memorial Highway <sup>6</sup>	The portion of I-76, between Lakewood Road and Industry Road, in Portage County	On October 14, 1972, Patrolman William J. Keller was fatally struck by a drunk driver during a traffic stop on I-76 in Portage County. Patrolman Keller served

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> R.C. 5534.154.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> R.C. 5534.162.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> R.C. 5534.301.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> R.C. 5534.424.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
		with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for 10 months before his fatality.
Chief Radio Operator Walter Dawson Memorial Highway <sup>7</sup>	The northwest-bound and southeast-bound lanes of U.S. Route 422, between Warren Burton Road and SR 534, in Trumbull County	Chief Radio Operator Walter Dawson was killed in the line of duty on May 31, 1953, in a fatal car crash. He served with the Ohio State Highway Patrol.
Patrolman James P. Gardner Memorial Highway <sup>8</sup>	The portion of U.S. Route 62, running in an easterly and westerly direction, between Western Avenue and South Mahoning Avenue in Alliance, Ohio	Patrolman James P. Gardner was killed on February 28, 1948, in a patrol car crash while pursuing a traffic violator near Alliance on U.S. Route 62. Prior to his employment with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Gardner served for three and a half years with the U.S. Navy in World War II.
Police Chief Ronnie Ricketts, Sr. Memorial Highway <sup>9</sup>	The portion of SR 170, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction, within the Village of New Middletown, in Mahoning County	Police Chief Ronnie Ricketts, a 25-year police force veteran, was serving as the Interim Police Chief for New Middletown when he was killed while on duty in a motor vehicle accident on April 2, 1997.
Sheriff Dale R. Williams Memorial Highway <sup>10</sup>	The portion of SR 39, running in a westerly and easterly direction, between Dellroy, OH and Carrollton, OH, in Carroll County	Sheriff Dale R. Williams served as the sheriff for Carroll County for 18 years and as a police officer since 1985. He passed away peacefully on September 24, 2022, during his term.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> R.C. 5534.425.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> R.C. 5534.426.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> R.C. 5534.441.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> R.C. 5534.452.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
Dispatcher T.J. D'Apolito Memorial Highway <sup>11</sup>	The southbound lane of SR 46, between Youngstown Drive and SR 446, in Mahoning County	Anthony "T.J." D'Apolito served as an Ohio State Highway Patrol dispatcher for 13 years. He died of a heart attack while working on March 17, 2021.
Town and Country Firefighter Lt. Philip M. Wigal Memorial Highway <sup>12</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 301, between SR 302 and the northern county border, in Wayne County	On April 11, 2022, Lieutenant Philip M. Wigal was struck and killed while working at an accident site on I-71 in Wayne County. Lt. Wigal served with the Town and Country Fire Department of West Salem, Ohio for 16 years.
Firefighter Charles D. Swank Memorial Highway <sup>13</sup>	The portion of SR 97, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction, between Bellville, OH and Butler, OH, in Richland County	Firefighter Charles D. Swank passed away unexpectedly during firefighter training in Pensacola, Florida on December 8, 2022. He had served as a firefighter for 17 years with the Washington Township Fire Department in Dublin, Ohio. Prior to becoming a firefighter, he also previously served in the U.S. Army's 82 <sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.
Patrolman Sean VanDenberg Memorial Highway <sup>14</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 236, between SR 93, in Summit County, and Lafayette Drive, in Stark County	Patrolman Sean VanDenberg died on December 25, 2021, from complications of contracting COVID-19 after arresting and transporting a COVID-19 positive suspect to jail. Patrolman VanDenberg served with the Lawrence

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> R.C. 5534.453.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> R.C. 5534.485.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> R.C. 5534.486.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> R.C. 5534.497.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
		Township Police Department for eight years prior to his death.
Corporal John E. Ruch Memorial Highway <sup>15</sup>	The northeast-bound and southwest-bound lanes of U.S. Route 20, between Center Road and Gerald Road, in Ashtabula County	Corporal John E. Ruch, a member of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, was killed in an automobile accident during a high-speed pursuit on March 4, 1942. He had served with the Patrol for eight years prior to his death.
Kris Jordan Memorial Highway <sup>16</sup>	The portion of SR 36, running in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction, between the eastern border of Scioto Township and the northern border of Ostrander, OH, in Delaware County	Kris Jordan served as both a member of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, representing Delaware County from 2008 until his unexpected death on February 25, 2023.
Brigid Kelly Norwood Lateral <sup>17</sup>	The westbound and eastbound lanes of SR 562, between I-75 and I-71, in Hamilton County	Brigid Kelly was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, representing parts of Hamilton County from January 2017 to December 2022. She then served as Auditor of Hamilton County. She died on March 26, 2024, after a two-year battle with esophageal cancer.
Veterans Memorial Bridge <sup>18</sup>	The bridge spanning the Mahoning River, located in Newton Falls, OH, in Trumbull County, and being a part of SR 534	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> R.C. 5534.499.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> R.C. 5534.503.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> R.C. 5534.512.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> R.C. 5534.612.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
Staff Sgt. Zachary Wobler Memorial Highway <sup>19</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of U.S. Route 127, between County Road 126 and Paulding County Road 60, in Paulding County	Staff Sgt. Zachary Wobler was killed in action on February 6, 2005, by insurgent small arms fire in Iraq, while serving in the U.S. Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
Staff Sergeant George P. Mizik (USMC) Memorial Highway <sup>20</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of I-77, between mile marker 25 and mile marker 29, in Noble County	Staff Sergeant George P. Mizik served with the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II and was a Purple Heart recipient. He returned to Ohio, was active in his community, and passed away September 9, 2005.
SSgt Gene F. Morrison Memorial Bridge <sup>21</sup>	The bridge spanning Indian Creek, immediately outside Versailles, OH, in Darke County, and being a part of SR 47	SSgt Gene F. Morrison died on June 3, 1968, while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.
Hubbard First Responders Bridge <sup>22</sup>	The bridge spanning Mud Run, between Mock Street and East Park Avenue, located in Hubbard, OH, in Trumbull County, and being a part of U.S. Route 62	
PFC Henry "Rick" Hausman, Jr. Memorial Highway <sup>23</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of I-270, between Cemetery Road and Roberts Road, in Franklin County	PFC Henry 'Rick' Hausman, Jr. served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. On May 27, 1969, he was travelling as a recoilless rifle gunner with his platoon on a reinforcement operation. During the mission, his unit faced intense enemy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> R.C. 5534.614.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> R.C. 5534.615.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> R.C. 5534.616.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> R.C. 5534.618.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> R.C. 5534.642.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
		fire. Disregarding his own personal safety, PFC Hausman returned fire on communist forces and placed himself in a position to enable medical personnel to evacuate the injured, but was mortally wounded in the combat. He posthumously received the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for his actions that day. His Bronze Star Medal Citation states, "The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the Communist threat to its freedom."
		Prior to entering the Army, it is noteworthy that PFC Hausman was one of six walk-on recruits to <i>The</i> Ohio State University football team in 1968, but gave up going to the Rose Bowl in 1969 in order to voluntarily join the military and serve in Vietnam.
Army Lt. Col. Robert R. Melnick Memorial Highway <sup>24</sup>	The northbound lanes of SR 11, between I-76 and U.S. Route 62, in Mahoning County	Lt. Col. Robert R. Melnick died on October 19, 2014, in an accident on the Ohio Turnpike outside of Toledo. When the accident occurred, he was returning from reserve duty in the Chicago area, where he served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> R.C. 5534.648.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
Sgt. Todd M. Bates Memorial Highway <sup>25</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 149, between SR 7 and Tabot Road, in Belmont County	Sgt. Todd M. Bates died on December 10, 2003, while patrolling the Tigris River during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He dove into the river to try to rescue his overboard squad leader, but neither resurfaced. Their bodies were subsequently recovered.
Cpl. Jack O. McClure Memorial Highway <sup>26</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 8, in Cuyahoga Falls, OH, in Summit County	Corporal Jack O. McClure served in the U.S. Army during World War II, including during the Normandy Campaign and the Battle of the Bulge. Among his service medals, Corporal McClure was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions on the border of France and Belgium. He died at home surrounded by family on March 22, 2023.
Delaware County Veterans Memorial Highway <sup>27</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of I-71, between the southern and northern border of Delaware County	
Vienna Township Veterans Bridge <sup>28</sup>	The bridge spanning SR 11, in Vienna Township, in Trumbull County, and being a part of Niles Vienna Road	
Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor Memorial Highway <sup>29</sup>	The northeast-bound and southwest-bound lanes of SR 7,	Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor served in the U.S. Army's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> R.C. 5534.649.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> R.C. 5534.651.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> R.C. 5534.653.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> R.C. 5534.655.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> R.C. 5534.656.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
	between Archers Fork Road and Grandview Hill Road, in Washington County	25 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the Vietnam War. He was killed in action by communist forces on May 15, 1968.
Cortland Veterans Memorial Bridge <sup>30</sup>	The bridge spanning Walnut Creek, located in Cortland, OH, in Trumbull County, and being a part of SR 5	
Army Corporal Charles E. Hiltibran Memorial Highway <sup>31</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of U.S. Route 68, between Dallas Road and Hickory Grove Road, in Champaign County	Army Corporal Charles E. Hiltibran served in the Korean War and was reported missing in action on December 2, 1950, after his unit was attacked by communist forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered, but were finally returned to the U.S. on August 1, 2018. DNA and anthropological analysis along with circumstantial evidence allowed the Army to consider Corporal Hiltibran accounted for as of April 20, 2020, and to send his remains to Urbana for burial.
Sgt. Cory M. Endlich Corridor <sup>32</sup>	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 172, between 17 <sup>th</sup> Street NW and 32 <sup>nd</sup> Street NW, in Stark County	Sgt. Cory M. Endlich was killed in action on June 9, 2007, from enemy small-arms fire while on patrol in Taji, Iraq. He was originally from Massillon, OH and was serving in the U.S. Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> R.C. 5534.658.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> R.C. 5534.659.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> R.C. 5534.661.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
Lance Corporal Jimmy Rizzo Memorial Highway <sup>33</sup>	The northeast-bound and southwest-bound lanes of I-90, between E. 55 <sup>th</sup> Street and E. 72 <sup>nd</sup> Street, in Cuyahoga County	Lance Corporal Jimmy Rizzo served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was killed in action by communist forces on February 8, 1968.
Ottawa County Veterans Memorial Highway <sup>34</sup>	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 163, between Fostoria Road and Hartshorn Road, in Ottawa County	
Lance Corporal Austin B. Schwenk Memorial Highway <sup>35</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 44, between Prouty Road and Mentor Avenue, in Lake County	Lance Corporal Austin B. Schwenk died on October 18, 2023 at the Marine Corps Camp Lejeune Military Base in North Carolina after being shot in an on-base barracks room. Another Marine was apprehended and is facing a court-martial for murder. Lance Corporal Schwenk enlisted in the Marines in 2022 after graduating from Riverside High School in Painesville, Ohio.
Major David McGue Memorial Highway <sup>36</sup>	The westbound and eastbound lanes of SR 273, between SR 31 and Township Road (TR) 197, in Hardin County	Major David McGue served in the U.S. Air Force and the Army National Guard. He was deployed several times to the Middle East, including a deployment during Operation Desert Storm. He lost his battle with PTSD and took his own life on August 22, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> R.C. 5534.662.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> R.C. 5534.663.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> R.C. 5534.664.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> R.C. 5534.665.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
Army PFC Herbert S. Bechtel Memorial Highway <sup>37</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of U.S. Route 68, between TR 219 East and County Road (CR) 37, in Logan County	Army PFC Herbert S. Bechtel served in the Vietnam War and was killed in action by communist forces on August 25, 1966. On the day of his death, he served as a machine gunner for his platoon. Despite receiving multiple serious injuries, he was able to both retrieve additional ammunition for other gunners and manage multiple machine guns himself in order to cover the extraction of other casualties from the battlefield. His bravery and sacrifice posthumously earned him the Distinguished Service Cross (the U.S. Army's second highest award for valor).
Patrolman Frank J. Hossler Memorial Highway <sup>38</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 235, between TR 43 and SR 47, in Logan County	Patrolman Frank J. Hossler was killed in an automobile crash while on patrol on September 22, 1956. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for ten months prior to his death.
Licking County Veterans Memorial Highway <sup>39</sup>	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 161, in Licking County	
U.S.S. Shenandoah Memorial Highway <sup>40</sup>	The portion of I-77, between mile marker 33 and mile marker 32, in Noble County	The U.S.S. Shenandoah was the first of four U.S. Navy rigid airships and made its maiden

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> R.C. 5534.667.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> R.C. 5534.669.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> R.C. 5534.671.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> R.C. 5534.672.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
		flight on September 4, 1923. On its 57 <sup>th</sup> flight, on September 3, 1925, the U.S.S. Shenandoah attempted to pass through an area of thunderstorms and turbulence over Ohio and was caught in a violent updraft that tore the airship apart. It crashed in Noble County, killing 14 of the crew members and leaving 29 survivors. The Memorial Highway passes by one of the crash sites.
CPL Willard Boston Wallace Memorial Highway <sup>41</sup>	The portion of SR 781, between mile marker 2 and mile marker 4, in Adams County	CPL Willard Boston Wallace was killed in action on November 23, 1967, by communist forces while serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.
Peter and Sarah Fossett Memorial Bridge <sup>42</sup>	The bridge connecting the southbound lanes of I-75 and westbound lanes of I-74, in Hamilton County	Peter and Sarah Fossett were both born into slavery. Peter attained his freedom in 1850 and settled in Cincinnati where he established himself as a minister and caterer. Sarah became a successful hairdresser serving the wealthy white women of Cincinnati. Peter and Sarah were married in 1854 and were active in the Underground Railroad and the abolitionist movement. They also were active in their community through the First Baptist Church of Cumminsville and their support of Cincinnati orphanages. Peter died in 1901 and Sarah in 1906.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> R.C. 5534.674.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> R.C. 5534.701.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
Pharmacist's Mate Third Class Willard L. Shupe Memorial Highway <sup>43</sup>	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 554, between SR 160 and Roush Hollow Road, in Gallia County	Pharmacist's Mate Third Class Willard L. Shupe served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during WWII. On June 20, 1944, while one of the assault rifle platoons of his company was pinned down and suffering heavy casualties, he went forward to administer first aid to the wounded. Despite being wounded twice, he refused to stop administering aid and was able to evacuate four other wounded men. He eventually bled to death while aiding the others around him. He was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously for his courage and sacrifice.
Cpl. David A. Johnston Memorial Highway <sup>44</sup>	The portion of Refugee Road running in an easterly and westerly direction, between SR 256 and Pickerington Road NW, in Fairfield County	Corporal David A. Johnston served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was killed in action by communist forces in Vietnam on March 3, 1969. He was a graduate of Pickerington High School.
LCpl Gerald Subler Memorial Highway <sup>45</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 185, between Burns Road and Progress Way, in Darke County	Lance Corporal Gerald Subler served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was killed in action by communist forces on September 30, 1968.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> R.C. 5534.703.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> R.C. 5534.761.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> R.C. 5534.813.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
TSgt. Grover Lee Swearingen Memorial Highway <sup>46</sup>	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 41, between Peebles, Ohio and West Union, Ohio, in Adams County	TSgt. Grover Lee Swearingen served in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. His plane was shot down over Dusseldorf, Germany, and he was held as a prisoner of war there for nine months. He returned home to West Union, Ohio and served his community until his death on October 21, 2021.
Paulding County Purple Heart Memorial Highway <sup>47</sup>	The northeast-bound and southwest-bound lanes of U.S. Route 24 in Paulding County	
Van Wert County Veteran's Memorial Highway <sup>48</sup>	The eastbound and westbound lanes of U.S. Route 30 in Van Wert County	
Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway <sup>49</sup>	The portion of U.S. Route 33, running in a southeasterly and northwesterly direction, between Coonpath Road NW and Pickerington Road NW, in Fairfield County	Lance Corporal James F. Kimple enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2004. He was killed in action by a roadside bomb on May 2, 2008, while supporting combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway <sup>50</sup>	The portion of U.S. 33, between mile marker 24 and mile marker 29, in Auglaize County	Staff Sgt. Charles V. Kettler was a member of the Ohio National Guard in the 37 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division – known as the "Buckeye Division" – and was deployed to the South Pacific during WWII. On July 11, 1943,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> R.C. 5534.835.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> R.C. 5534.848.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> R.C. 5534.849.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> R.C. 5534.873.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> R.C. 5534.874.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
		on New Georgia, Solomon Islands, he was mortally wounded while counterattacking a Japanese machine gun position. On his own, he destroyed the position with grenades, but sacrificed his life to do so, succumbing to wounds. He earned the Silver Star for his actions.
Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway <sup>51</sup>	The portion of SR 29, between mile marker 20 and mile marker 25, in Auglaize County	Sgt. Herbert C. Linville served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the 37 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division – known as the "Buckeye Division." Sgt. Linville was killed in action on July 11, 1943, while overtaking Japanese forces on New Georgia, Solomon Islands, and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his actions that day.
Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway <sup>52</sup>	The portion of SR 66, between mile marker 29 and mile marker 32, in Auglaize County	Sgt. Ronnie Blair was a squad leader in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Sgt. Blair was killed in action by communist forces on October 10, 1968.
Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway <sup>53</sup>	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 129, between Chapel Road and the border of Indiana, in Butler County	Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge served five years in the U.S. Army, including three years of active duty. He died during Operation Iraqi Freedom from noncombat related injuries on July 5, 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> R.C. 5534.875.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> R.C. 5534.876.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> R.C. 5534.877.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
Gold and Blue Star Family Memorial Bridge <sup>54</sup>	The bridge spanning the St. Joseph River, within the Village of Montpelier, in Williams County, that is a part of SR 107	A Blue Star Family is one that has an immediate family member serving in the U.S. armed forces during periods of hostility where the U.S. is engaged in combat. The family designation changes to a Gold Star Family if the immediate family member is killed in action or dies through a training accident during the periods of hostility and combat. The star designations (and corresponding flags) originated during WWI.
POW/MIA Memorial Viaduct <sup>55</sup>	The viaduct spanning the railroad tracks, within the village of Montpelier, in Williams County, that is a part of SR 107	"POW" stands for prisoner of war and "MIA" stands for missing in action
Richard "Dick" Mallon Memorial Highway <sup>56</sup>	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 32, between Glen Este-Withamsville Road and the western border of Batavia Township, in Clermont County	Richard "Dick" Mallon was a U.S. Navy veteran who was assigned to a special weapons unit responsible for atomic weapons. He also worked for 40 years for Frisch's Restaurants, achieving the rank of divisional vice president of operations. He passed away on January 4, 2022, after a brief illness.
SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway <sup>57</sup>	The portion of SR 39, between SR 430 and I-71, in Richland County	Petty Officer Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr., served in the U.S. Navy as a Signalman First

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> R.C. 5534.878.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> R.C. 5534.879.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> R.C. 5534.925.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> R.C. 5534.963.

Designations		
Designated Name	Location	Biographical Information
		Class. He was killed in action on February 17, 1969, during a hostile encounter with communist forces in South Vietnam.

## **HISTORY**

Action	Date
Introduced	02-27-23
Reported, H. Transportation	03-22-23
Passed House (76-0)	11-29-23
Reported, S. Transportation	11-13-24
Passed Senate (31-0)	11-13-24
House concurred in Senate amendments (86-0)	12-04-24