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H.B. 291
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Callender and Troy

Helena Volzer, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Designates multiple highways and bridges.
- Creates seven specialty license plates.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Memorial highways and bridges

The bill designates the following highways and bridges. It authorizes the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along the highways and bridges indicating their names.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"Crooksville Firefighters David Theisen and Stephen Carletti Memorial Highway" ¹	The northbound and southbound lanes of State Route (SR) 93 between Ceramic Way and West Main Street, in Perry County	Firefighters David Theisen and Stephen Carletti died in the line of duty on February 5, 1998. Both men were trapped in the basement of a house where they were attempting to put out a fire. Firefighter Theisen died of asphyxiation and burns and Firefighter Carletti died of a crushing injury.

¹ R.C. 5534.409.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"Deputy Bill Brewer Memorial Highway" ²	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 32, between the eastern and western border of Batavia Township, in Clermont County	On February 2, 2019, Clermont County Deputy Bill Brewer was shot and killed during a standoff with a gunman at a Pierce Township apartment complex.
"Officer Kaia L. Grant Memorial Highway" ³	The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-275 between the intersection of that route and Winton Road and the intersection of that route and I-75, in Hamilton County	Officer Kaia L. Grant was killed in the line of duty on March 21, 2020, when she was intentionally struck by the vehicle of the person she was pursuing. She served with the Springdale Police Department for eight years.
"Deputy Sheriff Emil Kleinwaechter Memorial Highway" ⁴	The portion of U.S. Route (USR) 50, running in a westerly and easterly direction, commencing at the intersection of that route and Newtown Road and extending to the intersection of that route and Elm Road, in Hamilton County	Deputy Kleinwaechter was a U.S. Army veteran and served with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for 13 years. He was struck and killed by a vehicle while directing traffic around the scene of a serious accident on Wooster Pike, east of Newtown Road on July 16, 1962.
"Deputy Sheriff Bill Bender and Trooper Randy Bender Memorial Highway" ⁵	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 309, between the intersection of that route and Marion-Williamsport Road West and the intersection of that route and Holland Road, in Marion County	Deputy Sheriff Bill Bender was killed on July 2, 1973, in an automobile accident while he was en route to set up a roadblock (because of an escape from a nearby jail). His son, Trooper Randy Bender, was also killed in the line of duty. Trooper

² R.C. 5534.414.

³ R.C. 5534.415.

⁴ R.C. 5534.416.

⁵ R.C. 5534.418.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		Bender died on November 20, 1982, after succumbing to the injuries he sustained from being struck by a tractor trailer while he was directing traffic in a construction zone.
"Officer Anthony Dia Memorial Highway" ⁶	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 184, between mile marker six and mile marker seven, in Lucas County	Officer Anthony Dia, 26 years old, was killed in the line of duty while responding to a disturbance at a store on July 4, 2020. He served with the Toledo Police Department for two years and had previously served with the Mercy Health Police Department for two years.
"Officers Dennis Bennington and Robert Seiffert Memorial Highway" ⁷	The northbound and southbound lanes of I-71 between Second Street and Martin Luther King Drive, in Hamilton County	Cincinnati police officers Dennis Bennington and Robert Seiffert were killed in the line of duty on March 6, 1979. Officer Bennington was a nine and a half year veteran of the Cincinnati Police Department, and Officer Seiffert served with the Department for eight years.
"Officer Brandon Stalker Memorial Highway" ⁸	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 184 between mile marker four and five, in Lucas County	Police Officer Brandon Stalker served with the Toledo Police Department and was shot and killed on January 18, 2021, as a result of a shooting involving an arson suspect. Officer

⁶ R.C. 5534.419.

⁷ R.C. 5534.431.

⁸ R.C. 5534.432.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		Stalker had served with the Department for two and a half years.
"Officer Ciera N. Greene Memorial Highway" ⁹	The portion of SR 123, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction between the intersection of that route and I-71 and the eastern border of the municipal corporation of Lebanon, in Warren County	Officer Ciera N. Greene was a Warren County corrections officer who died on November 15, 2014, after her car ran off the road and hit a utility pole. The cause of the accident is unknown.
"Don Manning Memorial Bridge" ¹⁰	The bridge spanning I-680, located in Mahoning County and being a part of the highway known as SR 164	Don Manning served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, representing the 59 th district from 2019 to 2020.
"Army Sergeant Patrick Ryan Carroll Memorial Highway" ¹¹	The portion of SR 162, running in an easterly and westerly direction, between Fitchville and the boundary of the municipal corporation of New London, in Huron County	Army Sergeant Patrick Ryan Carroll died on February 7, 2011, in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 319 th Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.
"SSG Kyle R. McKee Memorial Highway" ¹²	The portion of SR 86, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction, between the eastern and western border of Leroy Township in Lake County	SSG Kyle R. McKee was a helicopter repairer and a member of the Multinational Force and Observers, a peacekeeping force overseeing the terms of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in the Sinai

⁹ R.C. 5534.433.

¹⁰ R.C. 5534.501.

¹¹ R.C. 5534.603.

¹² R.C. 5534.604.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		Peninsula. He died on November 12, 2020 in a helicopter crash.
"Army Sgt. Vernon R. Judd Memorial Highway" ¹³	The portion of County Road (CR) 321, running in an easterly and westerly direction, one-half mile to the east and west of the intersection of that road and Muffly Avenue SW, in Stark County	U.S. Army Sgt. Vernon R. Judd of Navarre, Ohio, died on February 14, 1951, at Hofong Prisoner of War camp (also known as Pukchin-Tarigol) during the Korean War. His remains were returned to Ohio in 2019.
"Sgt. Thomas Cole Walker Memorial Bridge" ¹⁴	The bridge spanning West Branch Conneaut Creek that is part of SR 7 and that is located in the municipal corporation of Conneaut, in Ashtabula County	Army Sergeant Thomas Cole Walker, of Conneaut, passed away on October 20, 2019, in a training accident at Fort Stewart, Georgia.
"Air Force 2 nd Lt. William Vaughan Memorial Bridge" ¹⁵	The bridge spanning I-80, located in Mahoning County and being a part of the highway known as SR 46	William Vaughan was a radio operator of a volunteer bomber crew which undertook an important and dangerous photo-mapping mission over the heavily defended enemy Buka airfield on the island of Bougainville during WWII. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action on this mission.
"Adams County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway" ¹⁶	The portion of USR 52 running in an easterly and westerly direction across the entire southern portion of Adams County	N/A

¹³ R.C. 5534.605.

¹⁴ R.C. 5534.606.

¹⁵ R.C. 5534.816.

¹⁶ R.C. 5534.819.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"CPL Benjamin C. Dillon, RLTW, Memorial Highway" ¹⁷	The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-76 between mile marker number 44 and mile marker number 45, in Portage County	CPL Benjamin C. Dillon was killed in action on October 7, 2007, while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
"Lake Township Veterans Memorial Highway" ¹⁸	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 795 between Tracy Road and North Fostoria Road, located in Lake Township in Wood County	N/A
"SGT Joseph P. Collette Memorial Highway" ¹⁹	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 158, between the intersection of that route and Ginder Road Northwest and the intersection of that route and Carroll Eastern Road Northwest, in Fairfield County	Sergeant Joseph P. Collette died from wounds sustained in combat operations in Afghanistan on March 22, 2019. He earned, among other awards and decorations, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Badge, and the Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge.
"SFC Ron Rosser Medal of Honor Recipient Memorial Highway" ²⁰	The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-70, between mile marker 132 and 133, in Licking County	SFC Ron Rosser earned the Medal of Honor while serving in the 38 th Infantry Regiment of the 2 nd Infantry Division during the Korean War. In January of 1952, Rosser and his regiment were dispatched to capture an enemy-occupied hill. Fierce enemy resistance caused heavy casualties. After being reduced to 35 men from the initial 170 sent out, the party was ordered to make one more attempt to take the hill.

¹⁷ R.C. 5534.828.

¹⁸ R.C. 5534.837.

¹⁹ R.C. 5534.838.

²⁰ R.C. 5534.841.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		Rosser rallied the remaining men and charged the hill. Despite the heavy fire, Rosser attacked the enemy position three times, killed at least 13 enemy soldiers, and carried several men to safety.
"U.S. Army Specialist Christian D. Ward Memorial Highway" ²¹	The portion of SR 60, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction, between the intersection of that route and CR 121 and the intersection of that route and CR 87, in Washington County	U.S. Army Specialist Christian Ward joined the Army in 2015 and was stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado. While in the Army, he earned the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Aviation Badge. Specialist Ward was killed in a motorcycle accident on June 28, 2019, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
"Charles Woodson Way" ²²	The portion of USR 20 known as the USR 20 Bypass, between the East State Street exit and the West State Street exit, in Sandusky County	Charles Woodson played football at the University of Michigan. He won the Heisman Trophy. He went on to play in the National Football League for the Oakland Raiders and Green Bay Packers.

²¹ R.C. 5534.872.

²² R.C. 5534.90.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"Steven Lowell Cook Memorial Highway" ²³	The portion of SR 800, running in a northerly and southerly direction, between the intersection of that route and Ross Kennon Road and the intersection of that route and Shannon Road, in Belmont County	Steven Lowell Cook was a Barnesville construction worker who was struck and killed by a driver on September 30, 2017, while working in a construction zone on I-70. He previously worked for R&F Coal Company and R&R Trucking.
"William 'Bill' Burgett Memorial Highway" ²⁴	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 13, between the intersection of that route and Lexington Road and the intersection of that route and Beckley Road, in Knox County	William "Bill" Burgett founded Kokosing Construction Company and was president of the Ohio Contractors Association and the National Utility Contractors Association.

Specialty license plates

The bill creates seven new specialty license plates. The plates are available to the general public, but require a person to pay an annual contribution when the plate is issued and renewed. The contributions are deposited into the existing License Plate Contribution Fund and later disbursed to the appropriate organizations that receive the contributions. Those organizations work with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to determine the appropriate logo and words that are displayed on the plates.

In addition to the contribution, the person receiving the specialty license plate must pay an annual \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) fee. The purpose of the BMV fee is to compensate the BMV for the additional services required to issue each specialty license plate. The BMV fee is deposited into the existing Public Safety – Highway Purposes Fund. All other registration requirements apply to the new plates. The new plates may be issued for passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, and any other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

The new specialty license plates created by the bill are set forth in the following table, which includes a description of each:

²³ R.C. 5534.912.

²⁴ R.C. 5534.914.

Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of Contribution ²⁵
"The Ohio Aerospace Institute" license plate ²⁶	The Ohio Aerospace Institute	\$25	To facilitate student internships in aerospace and educational programming.
"Marshall University" license plate ²⁷	Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia	\$30	For purposes of awarding grants or scholarships to residents of Ohio who attend the University.
"University of Alabama" license plate ²⁸	University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama	\$30	For purposes of awarding grants or scholarships to residents of Ohio who attend the University.
"Keep Ohio Beautiful" license plate ²⁹	Keep Ohio Beautiful, Inc.	\$20	Towards the organization's mission of empowering Ohio communities to take greater responsibility for improving the local environment through litter prevention, beautification, community greening, waste reduction, and recycling.
"Circleville Pumpkin Show" license plate ³⁰	Circleville Pumpkin Show, Inc.	\$25	To promote good will surrounding the Circleville Pumpkin Show as a nonprofit annual event.
"Loyal Order of the Moose" license plate ³¹	The Ohio Chapter of the Loyal Order of the Moose	\$20	No purpose specified for the contributions.

²⁵ R.C. 4501.21.

²⁶ R.C. 4503.507.

²⁷ R.C. 4503.516.

²⁸ R.C. 4503.517.

²⁹ R.C. 4503.578.

³⁰ R.C. 4503.597.

³¹ R.C. 4503.703.

Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of Contribution ²⁵
"Little Brown Jug" license plate ³²	Little Brown Jug Society	\$20	To assist the Society in maintaining, promulgating, and operating the Little Brown Jug as part of Ohio's rich harness racing history.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-05-21
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	06-23-21
Passed House (95-0)	06-24-21

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³² R.C. 4503.755.