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H.B. 291
134th General Assembly

Final Analysis

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Primary Sponsors: Reps. Callender and Troy

Effective date: July 21, 2022

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UPDATED VERSION*

SUMMARY

- Designates multiple highways and bridges and revises the name of one memorial highway.
- Creates eight specialty license plates.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Memorial highways and bridges

The act 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
"Ohio Medal of Honor Highway" ¹	All of U.S. Route (USR) 20, as it extends across the northern portion of Ohio	The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest medal for valor in combat that can be awarded to members of the armed forces. ²

* This version updates the effective date.

¹ R.C. 5533.04. The designation is in addition to U.S. Route 20's current designation as the "General McPherson Highway."

² "[The Medal of Honor: The Nation's Highest Medal for Valor](#)," which is accessible on the United States Army's website, army.mil, by clicking on the link, "Valor."

April 20, 2022

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"Crooksville Firefighters David Theisen and Stephen Carletti Memorial Highway" ³	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.
"Deputy Bill Brewer Memorial Highway" ⁴	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" ⁵	The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-275, between Winton Road 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" ⁶	The portion of USR 50, running in a westerly and easterly direction, commencing at Newtown Road and extending to 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,

³ R.C. 5534.409.

⁴ R.C. 5534.414.

⁵ R.C. 5534.415.

⁶ R.C. 5534.416.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		east of Newtown Road on July 16, 1962.
"Deputy Sheriff Bill Bender and Trooper Randy Bender Memorial Highway" ⁷	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 309, between Marion-Williamsport Road West 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 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" ⁸	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 184, between mile markers 6 and 7, in Lucas County	Officer Anthony Dia 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" ⁹	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

⁷ R.C. 5534.418.

⁸ R.C. 5534.419.

⁹ R.C. 5534.431.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		the Department for eight years.
"Officer Brandon Stalker Memorial Highway" ¹⁰	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 184, between mile markers 4 and 5, 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 Stalker had served with the Department for two and a half years.
"Officer Ciera N. Greene Memorial Highway" ¹¹	The portion of SR 123, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction, between I-71 and the eastern border 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.
"Army Sergeant Patrick Ryan Carroll Memorial Highway" ¹²	The portion of SR 162, running in an easterly and westerly direction, between Fitchville and the border 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.

¹⁰ R.C. 5534.432.

¹¹ R.C. 5534.433.

¹² R.C. 5534.603.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
"SSG Kyle R. McKee Memorial Highway" ¹³	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 Peninsula. He died on November 12, 2020, in a helicopter crash.
"Army Sgt. Vernon R. Judd Memorial Highway" ¹⁴	The portion of County Road (CR) 321, running in an easterly and westerly direction, one-half mile to the east and west of 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" ¹⁵	The bridge spanning West Branch Conneaut Creek that is part of SR 7 and that is located in 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" ¹⁶	The bridge spanning I-80 that is part of SR 46 and that is located in Mahoning County	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

¹³ R.C. 5534.604.

¹⁴ R.C. 5534.605.

¹⁵ R.C. 5534.606.

¹⁶ R.C. 5534.816.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		for extraordinary heroism in action on this mission.
"Adams County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway" ¹⁷	The portion of USR 52 running in an easterly and westerly direction across the entire southern portion of Adams County	N/A
"CPL Benjamin C. Dillon, RLTW, Memorial Highway" ¹⁸	The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-76 between mile markers 44 and 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" ¹⁹	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" ²⁰	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 158, between Ginder Road Northwest 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" ²¹	The eastbound and westbound lanes of I-70, between mile markers 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.

¹⁷ R.C. 5534.819.

¹⁸ R.C. 5534.828.

¹⁹ R.C. 5534.837.

²⁰ R.C. 5534.838.

²¹ R.C. 5534.841.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		<p>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. 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.</p>
<p>“U.S. Army Specialist Christian D. Ward Memorial Highway”²²</p>	<p>The portion of SR 60, running in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction, between CR 121 and CR 87, in Washington County</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>“Joseph K. Vrabel ‘Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame’ Memorial Highway”²³</p>	<p>The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 224 in Poland, in Mahoning County</p>	<p>Joseph K. Vrabel was a Korean War veteran, a Post Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a Life Member of the American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15. He died on January 21, 2009, and was posthumously honored as a</p>

²² R.C. 5534.872.

²³ R.C. 5534.897.

Designated Name	Highway or Bridge	Biographical Information
		2013 inductee to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.
"PFC Steven D. Smith Memorial Highway" ²⁴	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 13, between the northern border of Bellville and the southern border of Mansfield, in Richland County	PFC Steven D. Smith served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was killed in action on April 15, 1968.
"Steven Lowell Cook Memorial Highway" ²⁵	The portion of SR 800, running in a northerly and southerly direction, between Ross Kennon Road 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.
"SGT Gary Lee McKiddy Memorial Highway" ²⁶	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 725, between South Union Road and Soldiers Home Road, in Montgomery County	SGT Gary Lee McKiddy served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was killed in action on May 6, 1970. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Memorial highway name change

The act changes the name of the "First Lt. Ashley White-Stumpf Memorial Highway" in Marlboro Township to the "First Lt. Ashley White Memorial Highway."²⁷

Specialty license plates

The act creates eight 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.

²⁴ R.C. 5534.899.

²⁵ R.C. 5534.912.

²⁶ R.C. 5534.923.

²⁷ R.C. 5533.626.

In addition to the contribution, the person receiving the specialty license plate must pay an annual \$10 Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) fee. The fee's purpose 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.

The new specialty license plates created by the act are set forth in the following table.

New specialty license plates			
Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of Contribution ²⁸
"The Ohio Aerospace Institute" license plate ²⁹	The Ohio Aerospace Institute	\$25	To facilitate student internships in aerospace and educational programming.
"Marshall University" license plate ³⁰	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 ³¹	University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama	\$30	For purposes of awarding grants or scholarships to residents of Ohio who attend the University.
"On Our Sleeves" license plate ³²	Nationwide Children's Hospital	\$20	For the "On Our Sleeves" Campaign. (The Campaign is a national movement to break stigmas around children's mental health. The campaign provides free mental health educational resources across the country to educate families, empower advocates, and connect families to local resources.) ³³

²⁸ R.C. 4501.21.

²⁹ R.C. 4503.507.

³⁰ R.C. 4503.516.

³¹ R.C. 4503.517.

³² R.C. 4503.518.

³³ [On Our Sleeves](http://onoursleeves.org). Nationwide Children's Hospital, available at onoursleeves.org.

New specialty license plates			
Name of the specialty license plate	Sponsoring organization	Contribution	Use of Contribution ²⁸
"Keep Ohio Beautiful" license plate ³⁴	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 ³⁵	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 ³⁶	The Ohio Chapter of the Loyal Order of the Moose	\$20	No purpose specified for the contributions.
"Little Brown Jug" license plate ³⁷	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
Reported, S. Transportation	10-06-21
Passed Senate (32-0)	10-06-21
House concurred in Senate amendments (95-1)	04-06-22

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³⁴ R.C. 4503.578.

³⁵ R.C. 4503.597.

³⁶ R.C. 4503.703.

³⁷ R.C. 4503.755.