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S.B. 323
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hackett

Margaret E. Marcy, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Designates ten new memorial highways.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

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

Designated Name	Highway	Biographical Information
"Sheriff Gene Fischer Memorial Highway" ¹	The portion of U.S. Route (USR) 35, running in a westerly and easterly direction, between USR 42 and USR 68, in Greene County	Sheriff Gene Fisher served as a Xenia police officer for 20 years and as Greene County Sheriff beginning in 2003. Sheriff Fisher passed away on November 16, 2021, at age 65.

¹ R.C. 5534.421.

Designated Name	Highway	Biographical Information
"Sheriff Fredrick J. Abdalla Memorial Highway" ²	The portion of State Route (SR) 7, running in a northerly and southerly direction, in Jefferson County	Sheriff Fredrick Abdalla served two years in the U.S. Army in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and earned numerous decorations for his military service. He passed away on February 21, 2022, having served over 37 years as the Jefferson County Sheriff.
"Natural Resources Officer Jason Lagore Memorial Highway" ³	The portion of SR 73, running in an easterly and westerly direction, through Caesar Creek State Park, in Warren County	Officer Jason Lagore served 15 years with the Department of Natural Resources and led the first K-9 academy at the Department. On February 23, 2022, Officer Lagore passed away from a medical emergency while responding to an incident in Rocky Fork State Park.
"Sheriff Sergeant William 'Bill' Morris Memorial Highway" ⁴	The portion of SR 55, running in an easterly and westerly direction, between SR 48 and the western border of the municipal corporation of Troy, in Miami County	Sergeant Morris was killed in the line of duty on November 22, 1972, after being shot while responding to a call involving two juveniles trying to steal a vehicle in Tipp City. He served 22 years with the Miami County Sheriff's Office.

² R.C. 5534.435.

³ R.C. 5534.436

⁴ R.C. 5534.437.

Designated Name	Highway	Biographical Information
"State Representative Andy Thompson Memorial Highway" ⁵	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 821 between SR 60 and County Road (CR) 375, in Washington County	Andy Thompson was a Republican member of the Ohio House of Representatives for the 95 th District, which includes Carroll, Harrison, and Noble counties, and portions of Washington and Belmont counties. He died unexpectedly on May 13, 2020.
"Cpl. Fred B. McGee Memorial Highway; Korean War Hero; Silver Star Recipient" ⁶	The portion of SR 151, running in an easterly and westerly direction, between CR 18 and SR 152, in Jefferson County	Cpl. Fred B. McGee served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. During the Battle of Hill 528, he and his squad leader were both seriously wounded. Despite his own injuries, when the second in command was unable to take over, Cpl. McGee took command and worked to evacuate his fellow wounded and killed soldiers, even after the order to withdraw. He received numerous awards and accolades, including the Silver Star, and passed away on January 3, 2020.
"U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton Soviak Memorial Highway" ⁷	The eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 113, between McIntyre Road and Twin Oaks Drive, in Erie County	While supporting Operation Allies Refuge on August 26, 2021, U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak was killed during an attack at the Abbey Gate of Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

⁵ R.C. 5534.518.

⁶ R.C. 5534.611.

⁷ R.C. 5534.831.

Designated Name	Highway	Biographical Information
"SPC Christian M. Neff Memorial Highway" ⁸	The northbound and southbound lanes of I-75, between East 4 th Street and National Road, in Allen and Auglaize counties	SPC Neff was killed in action on September 19, 2009, while serving with the U.S. Army in Baghdad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
"Officer Wayne A. Leon Memorial Highway" ⁹	The eastbound and westbound lanes of Lorain Avenue, between 65 th Street and West 30 th Street, within the municipal corporation of Cleveland	Officer Wayne A. Leon was shot and killed in the line of duty on June 25, 2000, after he stopped to question a man who was suspected of being involved in a shooting that occurred the previous day. He served with the Cleveland Police Department for six years.
"Jesse Owens Memorial Highway" ¹⁰	The northbound and southbound lanes of SR 315, between the Broad Street exit and the King Avenue exit, in Franklin County	Jesse Owens was a track athlete from The Ohio State University who competed in the Olympics in 1936, winning four gold medals.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-13-22
Reported, S. Transportation	06-01-22
Passed Senate (32-0)	06-01-22

ANSB0323PS-134/ec

⁸ R.C. 5534.832.

⁹ R.C. 5534.917.

¹⁰ R.C. 5534.962