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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 380*
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Transportation

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Hillyer and K. Miller

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SUMMARY

- Designates multiple highways and bridges.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Highway and bridge designations

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

Designated Name	Highway or bridge	Biographical Information
"John P. Lennon Memorial Highway" ¹	S.R. 87 between Bundysburg Road and Madison Road, in Geauga County.	John P. Lennon was the President of Abbott Valve and Fitting, Co. He was an avid philanthropist and supporter of local police and fire departments – having made significant contributions for shooting ranges, fitness centers, K-9 dogs, and support vehicles and equipment. He passed away on February 24, 2024.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Transportation Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 5533.532.

Designated Name	Highway or bridge	Biographical Information
"LCpl Gerald Subler Memorial Highway" ²	S.R. 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 by communist forces on September 30, 1968, as a result of multiple shrapnel wounds from hostile rocket fire.
"Patrolman William J. Keller Memorial Highway" ³	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.
"Firefighter Charles D. Swank Memorial Highway" ⁴	S.R. 97, running northbound and southbound between the municipal corporations of Bellville and Butler in Richland County.	Firefighter Swank served as a firefighter for 17 years with the Washington Township Fire Department in Dublin, Ohio. He also previously served in the U.S. Army's 82 nd Airborne. He passed unexpectedly during firefighter training in Pensacola, Florida on December 8, 2022.
"Patrolman Sean VanDenberg Memorial Highway" ⁵	S.R. 236 between S.R. 93, in Summit County, and Lafayette Drive, in Stark County.	Patrolman VanDenberg served with the Lawrence Township Police Department for eight years. He died from complications as a result of contracting COVID-19 from arresting and transporting a COVID-19 positive suspect to jail after serving a warrant.

² R.C. 5534.183.

³ R.C. 5534.423.

⁴ R.C. 5534.486.

⁵ R.C. 5534.497.

Designated Name	Highway or bridge	Biographical Information
"Corporal John E. Ruch Memorial Highway" ⁶	U.S.R. 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.
"Staff Sgt. Zachary Wobler Memorial Highway" ⁷	U.S.R. 127 between Rd. 126 and Paulding County Rd. 60 in Paulding County.	Staff Sgt. Zachary Wobler, age 24, was killed on February 6, 2005, by insurgent fire in Iraq. He was assigned to the U.S. Army's 2 nd Battalion, 325 th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82 nd Airborne Division.
"SSgt Gene F. Morrison Memorial Bridge" ⁸	The bridge spanning Indian Creek that is part of S.R. 47 in Darke County and is immediately outside the municipal corporation of Versailles.	U.S. Marine Corps SSgt Gene F. Morrison died on June 3, 1968, while serving in Vietnam.
"Delaware County Veterans Memorial Highway" ⁹	I-71 in Delaware County.	
"Vienna Township Veterans Bridge" ¹⁰	The bridge spanning S.R. 11 and being a part of Niles Vienna Road, in Vienna Township, Trumbull County.	

⁶ R.C. 5534.499.

⁷ R.C. 5534.614.

⁸ R.C. 5534.616.

⁹ R.C. 5534.653.

¹⁰ R.C. 5534.655.

Designated Name	Highway or bridge	Biographical Information
"Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor Memorial Highway" ¹¹	S.R. 7, between Archers Fork Road and Grandview Hill Road, in Washington County.	Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor served in the U.S. Army's 25 th Infantry Division in the Vietnam War. He was killed in action by communist forces on May 15, 1968.
"Army Corporal Charles E. Hiltibran Memorial Highway" ¹²	U.S.R. 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.
"Sgt. Cory M. Endlich Corridor" ¹³	S.R. 172 between 17 th Street NW and 32 nd Street NW, in Stark County.	U.S. Army Sgt. Cory M. Endlich grew up in Massillon, Ohio. He died from enemy small-arms fire while on patrol in Taji, Iraq on June 9, 2007.
"Ottawa County Veterans Memorial Highway" ¹⁴	S.R. 163, between Fostoria Road and Hartshorn Road, in Ottawa County.	
"Lance Corporal Austin B. Schwenk Memorial Highway" ¹⁵	S.R. 44 between Prouty Road and Mentor Avenue, in Lake County.	Lance Corporal Austin B. Schwenk died on October 18, 2023, at the U.S. Marine

¹¹ R.C. 5534.656.

¹² R.C. 5534.659.

¹³ R.C. 5534.661.

¹⁴ R.C. 5534.663.

¹⁵ R.C. 5534.664.

Designated Name	Highway or bridge	Biographical Information
		Corps Camp Lejeune Military Base in North Carolina after being shot in an on-base barracks room.
"Army PFC Herbert S. Bechtel Memorial Highway" ¹⁶	U.S.R. 68, between Township Road (T.R.) 219 East and County Road 37, in Logan County.	U.S. 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" ¹⁷	S.R. 235, between T.R. 43 and S.R. 47, in Logan County.	Patrolman Frank J. Hossler was killed in an automobile crash while on patrol on September 22, 1956.
"Licking County Veterans Memorial Highway" ¹⁸	S.R. 161 in Licking County.	

¹⁶ R.C. 5534.667.

¹⁷ R.C. 5534.669.

¹⁸ R.C. 5534.671.

Designated Name	Highway or bridge	Biographical Information
"Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway" ¹⁹	U.S. 33 commencing at mile marker 24 and proceeding in an easterly direction to mile marker 29, in Auglaize County.	Staff Sgt. Charles Kettler served during World War II in the U.S. Army 37 th Infantry Division – known as the "Buckeye Division." On July 11, 1943, 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" ²⁰	S.R. 29 between mile marker 20 and mile marker 25, in Auglaize County.	U.S. Army Sgt. Linville served during World War II in the 37 th Infantry Division – known as the "Buckeye Division." Sgt. Linville died on July 11, 1943, while overtaking Japanese forces on New Georgia, Solomon Islands.
"Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway" ²¹	S.R. 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, while successfully saving two of his comrades.

¹⁹ R.C. 5534.874.

²⁰ R.C. 5534.875.

²¹ R.C. 5534.876.

Designated Name	Highway or bridge	Biographical Information
"William 'Bill' Burgett Memorial Highway" ²²	S.R. 13, between the intersection of Lexington Road 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. He died on November 26, 2015.
"Clarence 'Sonny' Smith, Jr. Highway" ²³	S.R. 7, between Washington Boulevard and Western Reserve Road, in Mahoning County.	Clarence "Sonny" Smith, Jr. was a prominent business man in Youngstown who was active in many philanthropic causes, including donating his family's gemstone collection to the Youngstown State Geology Department. He died on April 13, 2021.
"Dr. Steven Takacs Memorial Highway" ²⁴	S.R. 87, between S.R. 44 and Sperry Road, in Geauga County.	Dr. Steven Takacs operated a family practice in Newbury Township (Newbury Family Practice) for nearly 30 years. Notably he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserves and held numerous community positions. He died of ALS on June 20, 2020.
"Tuscarawas Valley Memorial Highway" ²⁵	I-70 in Etna Township in Licking County.	

²² R.C. 5534.914.

²³ R.C. 5534.921.

²⁴ R.C. 5534.924.

²⁵ R.C. 5534.926.

Designated Name	Highway or bridge	Biographical Information
"Scott G. Gast Memorial Highway" ²⁶	S.R. 269, between West Lucas Street and Oxbo Road, in the municipal corporation of Castalia.	Scott G. Gast was a banker and musician who died in an automobile accident on November 2, 2014.
"Joe Burrow Highway" ²⁷	U.S.R. 33, between North Plains Road and Columbus Road, in Athens County.	Joe Burrow is a quarterback for the National Football League's Cincinnati Bengals. Rising to prominence in his youth, he was awarded the Mr. Football Award Ohio in 2014 for his achievements as the quarterback for the Athens High School football team. Later, as a college quarterback, he played both for the Ohio State University and Louisiana State University (LSU), won the Heisman Trophy as the most outstanding player during the 2019 college football season, and led LSU to an NCAA football national championship.
"SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway" ²⁸	S.R. 39, between S.R. 430 and I-71, in Richland County.	Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. served in the U.S. Navy as a Signalman First Class Petty Officer. He died on February 17, 1969, during a hostile encounter with communist forces during the Vietnam War.
"Al Oliver Highway" ²⁹	S.R. 125, between the Rocky Fork Road and U.S.R. 52, in Scioto County.	Al Oliver was born in Portsmouth, Ohio. He was an outfielder and first baseman

²⁶ R.C. 5534.941.

²⁷ R.C. 5534.961.

²⁸ R.C. 5534.963.

²⁹ R.C. 5534.964.

Designated Name	Highway or bridge	Biographical Information
		for various Major League Baseball teams from 1968 to 1985, including the 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates World Series champion team.
“Louis P. Schuster Memorial Interchange” ³⁰	Interchange of I-480 and W. 150 th St. in Cleveland.	Louis P. Shuster was an engineer on a Norfolk Southern train engine when he was killed after a collision with a dump truck on March 6, 2023.
“Gallagher Way” ³¹	S.R. 10 between W. 47 th St. and W. 50 th St. in Cleveland.	The Gallagher Family has been a leader in Cleveland by providing funds to various local charities and schools. The Family owns Arrow International, a multi-national manufacturer of charitable and social gaming products.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-18-24
Reported, H. Transportation	---

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³⁰ R.C. 5534.966.

³¹ R.C. 5534.967.