



**Senator Tom Patton**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate District**

---

**GUEST COLUMN**

June 15, 2011

Contact: Joe Ewig  
(614) 466-8056

**OHIO SENATE DESIGNATES MEMORIAL HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES  
FOR FALLEN HEROES**

*Senate Passes House Bill to Commemorate the Sacrifices of 30 Military Men and  
Women, Public Servants*

Last week, my colleagues and I voted in unanimous favor to honor thirty Ohioans who gave their lives for the safety and well-being of others. Introduced by State Representative Courtney Combs (R-Hamilton), House Bill 65 commemorates these lives through the designation of 24 memorial highways and 6 memorial bridges. Those being honored in the bill include heroes from multiple military campaigns, as well as a State Trooper and a Volunteer Fireman who had given their lives while on duty. Following its passage in the House of Representatives, House Bill 65 made its way to the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee, of which I serve as Chairman, before being voted on during senate session.

In addition to the designation of select highways and bridges, this legislation creates an "Honor Our Fallen" license plate that will be available to the general public through a \$15 contribution. Money contributed by the purchase of these plates will be paid to the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society and be used to support its charitable efforts and to honor law enforcement officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty.

We know all too well the pressing issues facing Ohio: the need for a balanced budget, an expanded workforce, higher standards in school choice and quality, and greater sharing and efficiency in government services, as well as many other areas of concern. However, bills like this remind us that freedom is never free. In honoring those who gave their lives, we also remember the sacrifices made by their loved ones. We must never forget the dedication and courage displayed by those who serve us, and we must forever keep them in our hearts.