



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Thank you, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Transportation Committee.

I am Representative Steve Bishop. I represent District 17, which is the towns of Orland, Penobscot, Verona Island, and my hometown of Bucksport.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of naming this road in honor of Deputy Luke Gross of the Hancock County Sheriff's Office.

Luke Gross was not only a dedicated law enforcement officer, but also a mentor, a leader, and a friend. Early in my law enforcement career, Luke and I worked together. As a young officer, I quickly came to respect and admire him, not only for his professionalism, but for the way he carried himself every day. He was someone I looked up to, someone whose example helped shape the law enforcement officer I became.

Luke was kind, compassionate, and genuinely generous in how he treated people. He had a rare ability to connect with others, whether they were victims, coworkers, students, or complete strangers. He didn't just enforce the law, he served the community with empathy and patience, always taking the time to treat people with dignity and respect. Those qualities earned him the trust of the public and the deep respect of those who worked alongside him.

He was especially passionate about the D.A.R.E. program and devoted a great deal of time and energy to working with young people throughout Hancock County. Luke cared deeply about the next generation. He believed in guiding, teaching, and protecting our youth, and he understood that strong relationships between law enforcement and schools are essential to building safer communities. He was a leader in our schools, just as he was a leader in law enforcement.



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On the job, Luke was someone you wanted by your side. I can say honestly that I was always relieved when I learned that he was coming to back me up on a call. His presence brought confidence and calm. He was dependable, level-headed, and brave, and he never hesitated to support fellow officers when it mattered most.

Luke Gross embodied what it means to be a public servant. His commitment to Hancock County went far beyond his uniform. He left a lasting impact on the people he served, the children he taught, and the officers who had the privilege of working with him, including me.

I deeply miss him. Honoring Deputy Luke Gross by naming this road after him would serve as a lasting reminder of his service, his character, and his love for this community. It would ensure that his legacy continues to stand strong, just as he did, for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and please support LD 2033.