

Good morning, Madam Chair Crafts, Mr. Chair Nangle, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

For the record, my name is Scott Kane, and I serve as the Sheriff of Hancock County.

I am here today not only as a law enforcement professional, but as someone who had the privilege of working alongside Deputy Gross, and of knowing Luke as a person.

On September 23, 2001, at 5:01 in the morning, Luke was struck by a vehicle while performing his duties. At 5:03 A.M., I received a call notifying me that Luke had been hit. That moment is burned into my memory — and it marks the beginning of a moment that permanently changed our office, our community, and a family whose lives were forever altered.

Luke was the kind of officer every agency hopes for and every community deserves. He was dependable, steady, and took his responsibility to serve others seriously. But what truly set him apart was who he was beyond the uniform. Luke was kind. He was caring. And despite the weight of this profession, he was still a kid at heart — someone who could bring lightness, laughter, and humanity into even the hardest days.

He had a way of making people feel at ease. He made people feel safe. And he made the people around him better — simply by being who he was.

His loss left a space that cannot be filled — in our department, in our community, and most especially in the hearts of his family. We carry his name in our memories, but his family carries his absence every day.

Designating this portion of Route 3 as the Luke Gross Memorial Highway is more than a sign on the side of the road. It is a public acknowledgment that Luke mattered — that his service mattered — and that his life continues to be honored in the very place where he served and protected others.

It gives his family something permanent. Something visible. Something that says: Luke's life, his character, and his sacrifice are not forgotten.

For those of us who worked with Luke, it also gives us a place to pause — to remember why we wear this badge, why integrity matters, and why service is more than just a job.

This designation would mean a great deal to our office. But more importantly, it would mean a great deal to his family — and to a community that is better because Luke was part of it.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for considering this. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.