



MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 8, 2026 - Testimony in support of LD 2033:

Resolve, to Designate Route 3 in Trenton as the Deputy Luke Gross Memorial Highway

Good morning, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham. I serve as the House Republican Leader and represent House District 12, which includes Franklin, Gouldsboro, Hancock, Sorrento, Sullivan, Winter Harbor, and Steuben. I am here today in support of my proposed legislation, LD 2033, a resolve to designate Route 3 in Trenton as the Deputy Luke Gross Memorial Highway.

LD 2033 is a simple and straightforward resolve directing the Department of Transportation to designate a portion of Route 3 in the Town of Trenton in Deputy Gross's honor, *the location where he sacrificed his life in the line of duty*, and to erect fitting signage. The proposal will not alter any traffic patterns or impose any regulatory requirements. Instead, it provides a lasting and meaningful tribute to a public servant who gave his life in service to the people of Maine.

Deputy Luke Gross served with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office for 18 years. He was a dedicated law enforcement officer, a committed public servant, and a person of strong character. His death in the line of duty in November 2022 was a profound loss for his family, his fellow officers, and the entire Hancock County community.

Luke is survived by his wife, Lauren, and their two children, Ryan and Alissa. A graduate of Bucksport High School, he proudly wore jersey number 80 for the Golden Bucks football team. He attended the University of Maine at Augusta and graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Beyond his law enforcement career, Luke was deeply engaged in his community. He volunteered as a camp counselor at Camp Postcard, served as a DARE officer for Hancock County, and was actively involved in fundraising efforts for Hancock County Sheriff's Charities.

Route 3 in Trenton is an appropriate location for this designation. It is a well-traveled corridor in Hancock County and one familiar to residents, visitors, and members of the law enforcement community. Naming this highway in Deputy Gross's honor will serve as an enduring reminder of his service and of the risks faced each day by our law enforcement officers and first responders.

Memorial highway designations are one way the Maine Legislature can recognize and honor individuals who have made extraordinary sacrifices for our communities. This resolve ensures that Deputy Gross's name and legacy are preserved in a respectful and dignified manner, while offering his family and colleagues a permanent acknowledgment of his service.

I respectfully ask the Committee to support LD 2033 and report the bill out ***"Ought to Pass."*** Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Bob Faulkingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Billy Bob" on the first line and "Faulkingham" on the second line.

Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham
House Republican Leader