

# Legislative Analysis



## **PFC RONALD JAMES FITCH MEMORIAL HIGHWAY**

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

### **House Bill 6208 as referred to second committee**

**Sponsor: Rep. Graham Filler**

**1st Committee: Transportation**

**2nd Committee: Ways and Means**

**Complete to 12-12-20**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### **SUMMARY:**

House Bill 6208 would amend the Michigan Memorial Highway Act to dedicate the portion of highway US-127 between Wildcat Road and Livingston Road in Clinton County as the "PFC Ronald James Fitch Memorial Highway."

Proposed MCL 250.2110

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

According to committee testimony and the Military Honor Wall, Ronald James Fitch was born on February 10, 1947. He lived in St. Johns in Clinton County. Ronald enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, completed basic training, and was assigned to 3353-Amphibious Cargo Carrier Operator as his Military Occupational Specialty. He was later assigned to Otter Platoon, H&S Company, 3rd Motor Transport BN, 3rd MarDiv, III MAF. He was deployed to Thua Thien Province, Vietnam, in early 1967 and assigned to Operation Big Horn in April 1967.

Operation Big Horn commenced on April 4, and PFC Fitch was deployed with his company out of Dong Ha along the "Street Without Joy." On April 5, a convoy with PFC Fitch was ambushed, and two resupply Otters were disabled, with five wounded. Delta tried to break through to relieve the ambush site but withdrew to allow the enemy to penetrate through the ambush site to set up a defense perimeter. The decision was made to sweep the adjacent hamlet Ap Dong Ho to set up a secure evacuation site for the wounded. Thirty meters from the hamlet, the lead platoon was met with heavy machine gun and small arm fire, along with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. All but one in the lead platoon were killed. Private First Class Ronald James Fitch was 20 years of age.

Dedicating a portion of highway US-127 in Clinton County would be an appropriate way to honor his service and ultimate sacrifice to his community and our state.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Section 2 of the Michigan Memorial Highway Act indicates that the state transportation department shall provide for the erection of suitable markers indicating the name of the highway only "when sufficient private contributions are received to completely cover the

cost of erecting and maintaining those markers." As a result, the bill has no state or local fiscal impact.

**POSITIONS:**

The Michigan Department of Transportation indicated a neutral position on the bill. (12-3-20)

Legislative Analyst: E. Best  
Fiscal Analyst: William E. Hamilton

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