I am submitting this written testimony in support of HB5934, AAC Naming Part of Route 63 In Honor of Guy Buzzannco.

I met Guy while attending Parent Teacher Association meetings, I as a Watertown Board of Education member and Guy as a very involved parent. I could see then that Guy was a very special person. His motivational speaking ability along with his strong management skills he quickly organized parents in our district to become involved in their children's education. Imbedded in my memory was Guy's unique ability to connect, to draw you in, to flash that genuine smile and to explain that each and every one of you were valuable, appreciated and welcome.

Fortunately for us Guy decided to take his ability to the next level and was elected to the Watertown Board of Education. His leadership ability was evident from the start and within a short period of time he was unanimously elected to become our Board Chair. Guy was not only a great leader but was a mentor to me and all the newly elected board members, and through his energy, his dedication, and his honesty, he was able to capture our imagination and challenged us to believe that we could gain our communities trust and move our district forward towards educational excellence.

When Guy was again stricken with cancer he was just re-elected to the Watertown Board of Education garnering the highest votes in the election. Even with his diagnosis he never quit. In fact he went on a mission to motivate the community to become actively involved in education, to pass out town-wide referendums, to support our music programs, to honor our academic excellence of our students. As a member of Habitat for Humanity he helped manage contractors to build a home and encouraged students to volunteer in that project.

When Guy became very sick and finally had to resign as our board chair, it was a reality check for all of us on the board. I tried to make sense of this loss but in the end I thought....you know it's really not about losing his leadership....it's all about what we have "gained" by his leadership. I think that his tenure was more about mentorship, was more about motivation, and how ordinary community members like you...and me...can learn from being lucky enough to work... to collaborate... and yes to laugh....with true leaders like Guy. What Guy's tenure tells me is to not be afraid to join, to not be afraid to take a risk, and as Guy would so eloquently say, especially, not be afraid to fail. But to pick yourself up, to dust yourself off, and learn from your mistakes, to make yourself a better person, a better father....a better humanitarian.

There are events in every life that tests ones courage, commitment, and resolve. Guy rose to his challenge with exemplary dignity and strength during the good times and bad times.... and in his own way "paid it forward" by performing countless acts of kindness and would never seek recognition. His integrity and his relentless drive set a standard that should be an example to all of us. I know that honoring Guy will surely be a positive influence in our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas A. Lambert
28 Cottage Place
Oakville, Ct.
06779
860-274-5814