

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 269

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Big Spring, Texas, as the George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2011

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Big Spring, Texas, as the George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1)(A) George H. O'Brien, Jr., was born on
6 September 10, 1926, in Fort Worth, Texas;

1 (B) O'Brien served as a seaman in the United
2 State Merchant Marine during the period beginning
3 in December 1944 and ending in May 1946;

4 (C) in July 1949, while attending college at the
5 Texas Technological College (now known as "Texas
6 Tech University"), O'Brien enlisted in the United
7 States Marine Corps Reserve;

8 (D) after graduating from college in 1950,
9 O'Brien was ordered to active duty and departed for
10 Korea in September 1952;

11 (E) following his discharge from the service,
12 O'Brien settled in Big Spring, Texas, to raise his
13 family; and

14 (F) O'Brien often participated in volunteer pro-
15 grams at the Department of Veterans Affairs med-
16 ical center in Big Spring;

17 (2)(A) O'Brien was awarded the Medal of
18 Honor, the highest honor in the United States
19 awarded for valor to members of the Armed Forces,
20 for his actions during the Battle for the Hook, on
21 October 27, 1952, in Korea for conspicuous gal-
22 lantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above
23 and beyond the call of duty as a rifle platoon com-
24 mander of Company H, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines,
25 1st Marine Division (Reinforced);

1 (B) although wounded several times during in-
2 tense fighting to regain a vitally important hill posi-
3 tion on the main line of resistance, then-Second
4 Lieutenant O'Brien bravely led his platoon into
5 deadly small arms, artillery, and mortar fire against
6 a numerically superior force; and

7 (C) during the battle, O'Brien repeatedly en-
8 gaged the enemy at close range, killing at least 3
9 enemy soldiers, eventually securing the position until
10 relieved;

11 (3) in addition to being awarded the Medal of
12 Honor during his service in Korea, O'Brien received
13 2 Purple Heart Medals for wounds received during
14 combat, the Korean Service Medal with 2 bronze
15 stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and several
16 other military honors;

17 (4) O'Brien—

18 (A) was awarded the Medal of Honor per-
19 sonally by President Dwight D. Eisenhower;
20 and

21 (B) is the only Medal of Honor recipient
22 from Big Spring, Texas;

23 (5) on his release from the United States Ma-
24 rine Corps, O'Brien—

1 (A) began a career as a petroleum geolo-
2 gist in Texas; and

3 (B) served on the Marine Corps Scholar-
4 ship Foundation and the Medal of Honor Soci-
5 ety; and

6 (6) O'Brien died on March 11, 2005, in Mid-
7 land, Texas.

8 **SEC. 2. GEORGE H. O'BRIEN, JR., DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
9 **ERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.**

10 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Af-
11 fairs medical center located in Big Spring, Texas, shall
12 be known and designated as the “George H. O'Brien, Jr.,
13 Department Of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

14 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
15 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
16 States to the Department of Veterans Affairs medical cen-
17 ter referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a
18 reference to the “George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department Of
19 Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

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