

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 54

To designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

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 the following:

5 (1) Major Brent Taylor began his military serv-  
6 ice following the attacks of September 11, 2001. He  
7 joined the Army National Guard in 2003, three days  
8 after his engagement to his wife, Jennie. Five of his  
9 brothers would eventually serve in the Armed Forces  
10 following the deadly attacks.

1           (2) During his time in the Army National  
2           Guard, Major Taylor distinguished himself in service  
3           to the United States and the State of Utah. He re-  
4           ceived a commission as a second lieutenant from the  
5           Brigham Young University Reserve Officer Training  
6           Corps in 2006, while graduating as a member of the  
7           National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

8           (3) During his impressive career with the Utah  
9           National Guard, Major Taylor distinguished himself  
10          in multiple specialties, including Intelligence and  
11          Military Police. One of his earliest assignments in-  
12          cluded analyzing foreign language documents in sup-  
13          port of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He also led  
14          document exploitation efforts in multiple European  
15          and South American languages for a variety of intel-  
16          ligence community customers. Major Taylor also  
17          managed a team that assessed security vulnerabili-  
18          ties at high-profile facilities across the United  
19          States, all while maintaining a successful private  
20          sector career in Utah.

21          (4) Major Taylor was continuously ready to  
22          take up his Nation's call to arms and deployed four  
23          times in support of operations in Iraq and Afghani-  
24          stan. His deployed duties varied from Platoon Lead-  
25          er and Combat Advisor to Chief of Staff to the Spe-

1        cial Operations Advisory Group, responsible for lead-  
2        ing a joint task force advising and assisting an elite  
3        Afghan special operations unit.

4            (5) Throughout his deployments, Major Taylor  
5        distinguished himself on several occasions, earning a  
6        multitude of awards including the Bronze Star. The  
7        citation credits Major Taylor’s ability to think calm-  
8        ly and decisively with keeping his subordinates safe  
9        while traversing 600,000 miles of roads in Iraq,  
10        laden with improvised explosive devices (hereinafter,  
11        “IED”) and ripe for ambush.

12           (6) During one particularly harrowing mission,  
13        Major Taylor’s vehicle was struck by an IED. While  
14        he survived the attack, the wounds he received  
15        earned him the Purple Heart.

16           (7) Major Taylor’s amazing record of service  
17        was not limited to the battlefield. In 2010, he served  
18        as a member of the North Ogden City Council and,  
19        in 2013, Major Taylor was elected mayor. His stead-  
20        fast leadership led to the city being recognized as  
21        “Business Friendly” by the Governor of Utah, and  
22        as one of the safest, freest cities in the United  
23        States by several organizations. His initiatives in-  
24        cluded improvements to public works and infrastruc-  
25        ture, attracting businesses to the area, developing a

1 local community center, and increasing trans-  
2 parency. His action led his constituents to reelect  
3 Major Taylor in 2017.

4 (8) In 2018, Major Taylor placed himself on a  
5 leave of absence from his mayoral duties in order to  
6 deploy to Afghanistan, explaining to his constituents,  
7 “Service is what leadership is all about”.

8 (9) While serving in Afghanistan, a dear col-  
9 league, Afghani Lieutenant Kefayatullah, was killed  
10 shortly before the Afghan elections. Major Taylor  
11 wrote, “The strong turnout at that election, despite  
12 the attacks and challenges, was a success for the  
13 long-suffering people of Afghanistan, and for the  
14 cause of human freedom. I am proud of the brave  
15 Afghan and U.S. soldiers I serve with. Many Amer-  
16 ican, NATO and Afghan troops have died to make  
17 moments like this election possible.”. He also  
18 extolled the American public to embrace its civic  
19 duty, stating, “I hope everyone back home exercises  
20 their precious right to vote. And that whether the  
21 Republicans or Democrats win, that we all remem-  
22 ber that we have far more as Americans that unites  
23 us than divides us.”.

24 (10) Tragically, on Saturday, November 3rd,  
25 2018, Major Taylor was killed in an attack in Af-

1 ghanistan. He was survived by his wife, Jennie, and  
2 his seven children, Megan, Lincoln, Alex, Jacob,  
3 Ellie, Jonathan, and Caroline.

4 (11) The impression that Major Taylor left was  
5 indelible. An Afghan officer who had served with  
6 Major Taylor, penned a letter to his wife, stating,  
7 “Your husband taught me to love my wife Hamida  
8 as an equal and treat my children as treasured gifts,  
9 to be a better father, to be a better husband, and  
10 to be a better man.”. That officer further com-  
11 mented that, “He died on our soil but he died for  
12 the success of freedom and democracy in both of our  
13 countries.”.

14 (12) It is only well and fitting that, as a tribute  
15 to this man’s amazing life, Congress name a facility  
16 in honor of Major Taylor’s shining example of serv-  
17 ice and sacrifice.

18 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF MAJOR BRENT TAYLOR VET CEN-**  
19 **TER OUTSTATION IN NORTH OGDEN, UTAH.**

20 (a) DESIGNATION.—The outstation of the Depart-  
21 ment of Veterans Affairs located at 2357 North 400 East  
22 Washington Boulevard, North Ogden, Utah, shall, after  
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and des-  
24 ignated as the “Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Out-  
25 station”.

1           (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regula-  
2 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United  
3 States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall  
4 be considered to be a reference to the Major Brent Taylor  
5 Vet Center Outstation.

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