

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 1760, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1760.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

COL. GAIL S. HALVORSEN "CANDY BOMBER" VETERANS CENTER

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2514) to rename the Provo Veterans Center in Orem, Utah, as the "Col. Gail S. Halvorsen 'Candy Bomber' Veterans Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2514

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF THE COL. GAIL S. HALVORSEN "CANDY BOMBER" VETERANS CENTER.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Gail Halvorsen was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on October 10, 1920, and spent his youth with his family on small farms in Utah and Idaho.

(2) After a brief stint at Utah State University, Gail Halvorsen joined the Civilian Pilot Training Program where he earned his pilot's license in 1941. During that same year, Halvorsen joined the Civil Air Patrol as a pilot.

(3) Gail Halvorsen joined the United States Army Air Corps in 1942 and trained flying fighter jets with the Royal Air Force. Upon his return from training, he was assigned to fly transport missions in the South Atlantic Theater.

(4) After World War II and the division of Berlin into occupation zones, disputes broke out between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union over the future of Europe.

(5) Negotiations deteriorated, and in June of 1948 Soviet forces locked down all land routes connecting Western Germany with the allied portions of Berlin. Approximately 2,000,000 people in West Berlin were left completely isolated. Starvation, poverty, and desperate want ensued.

(6) In an effort to alleviate the immense human suffering, the allies decided to drop supplies to people of West Berlin from the air until a diplomatic solution to the blockade could be reached. Termed by United States forces "Operation Vittles", the Berlin Airlift began on June 26, 1948.

(7) Gail Halvorsen was assigned to Germany in 1948 to work as an airlift pilot

where he flew C-47 and C-54 cargo planes as part of Operation Vittles.

(8) While on mission at Tempelhof Airport in Berlin, Halvorsen noticed a group of German children standing just outside the barb wire fence.

(9) The children were destitute and clearly had very little to eat. Halvorsen gave the children two sticks of gum he had in his pocket, which they split into little pieces to share among themselves.

(10) Colonel Halvorsen was deeply affected by the experience and wanted to do more to help. He promised the children he would drop more candy to them from his plane as he flew his regular airlift missions.

(11) Halvorsen told the children they would recognize his plane by a back-and-forth waggle of his wings as he flew over.

(12) Colonel Halvorsen enlisted his copilot and engineer in the project and began attaching their candy rations to miniature parachutes which they dropped from their plane to the starving children below.

(13) The children of Berlin gave Halvorsen many nicknames including "Uncle Wiggly Wings", "The Chocolate Flier", "The Gum Drop Kid", and "The Chocolate Uncle". He eventually became known around the world as "The Candy Bomber".

(14) Lieutenant General William H. Turner, who directed the Berlin Airlift, learned about Halvorsen's efforts and officially expanded the idea into a full-blown operation known as "Little Vittles" as a play on the broader operation's name.

(15) As the candy drops continued, word of Operation Little Vittles reached the United States. Families, schoolchildren, and candy-makers in the United States began contributing candy and homemade parachutes that Halvorsen and other pilots could drop.

(16) When the Berlin Airlift ended, an estimated 250,000 parachutes containing approximately 21 tons of candy had been dropped by Halvorsen and his fellow airmen as a part of Operation Little Vittles.

(17) Halvorsen retired from the military in 1974 after 31 years of service and more than 8,000 hours of flying time.

(18) Since his retirement, Halvorsen has continued his humanitarian service. He has voluntarily represented the United States Air Force and the United States abroad and has re-enacted his famous candy drops several times in Berlin and around the world.

(19) Halvorsen has also been a tremendous boon to his community through church service and other local contributions.

(20) Gail Halvorsen turned 100 years old on October 10, 2020.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Provo Veterans Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 360 State Street, Orem, Utah, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Col. Gail S. Halvorsen 'Candy Bomber' Veterans Center".

(c) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the veterans center referred to in subsection (b) shall be considered to be a reference to the Col. Gail S. Halvorsen "Candy Bomber" Veterans Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and

extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2514.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for S. 2514, a bill to recognize and remember the life of Colonel Gail Seymour Halvorsen, who passed away on February 16, 2022, at 101 years old.

I thank Senator LEE and my colleagues from Utah's congressional delegation for their work to pay tribute to Colonel Halvorsen. Colonel Halvorsen was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and in 1942 he joined the Army Air Corps and trained as a fighter pilot. While stationed in Germany, where he flew C-47 and C-54 cargo planes as part of Operation Vittles; Halvorsen noticed dozens of hunger-starved German children outside of the barbed wire fence. Having two pieces of gum, Halvorsen broke it into strips and gave it to the children to share amongst them. Inspired by the children's glee, Halvorsen committed to more frequently distributing candy from his plane to them.

Earning his nickname "The Candy Bomber," Halvorsen dropped miniature parachutes of candy rations in the street of Berlin to feed the children. By the end of the Berlin Airlift, Halvorsen and his fellow airmen distributed an estimated 250,000 parachutes with over 20 tons of candy throughout Operation Little Vittles.

The Provo Vet Center plays a vital role in the community and provides important services such as counseling for veterans with PTSD and confidential counseling sessions to those who have experienced military sexual trauma—all free to the veterans, reservists, and members of National Guard—regardless of service connection or VA health enrollment status.

To rename this important vet center after Colonel Halvorsen would be a fitting honor for one of the Beehive State's most selfless members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and a letter dated July 28, 2021, from the U.S. Senate.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH,
November 1, 2021.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Ranking Member JERRY MORAN,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Ranking Member MIKE BOST,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER BOST: We, the members of the Utah Veterans of Foreign Wars, write to support that the

Provo Veterans Center located at 360 South State Street Building C 103 in Orem, Utah be renamed after Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen, affectionately known as the "Candy Bomber", who performed military service of an extraordinarily distinguished character during the Berlin Airlift in 1948.

Halvorsen's creativity and compassion helped to heal the wounds of the Second World War and softened the relationship between an occupied Germany and the United States. Col. Halvorsen exemplifies the best of our brave veterans who have each demonstrated service before self.

Gail Halvorsen was assigned to Germany in 1948 to work as an airlift pilot where he flew C-47 and C-54 cargo planes as part of Operation "Vittles". While on mission at Tempelhof Airport in Berlin, Halvorsen noticed a group of German children standing just outside the barbed wire fence. The children were destitute and clearly had very little to eat. Halvorsen gave the children two sticks of gum he had in his pocket, which they split into little pieces to share among themselves. The looks of joy on their faces left an indelible impression. Colonel Halvorsen was deeply affected by the experience and wanted to do more to help. He promised the children he would drop more candy to them from his plane as he flew his regular airlift missions.

After enlisting his copilot in the project, Halvorsen began attaching their candy rations to miniature parachutes which he dropped from their plane to the starving children below. The children gave Halvorsen many nicknames including "Uncle Wiggly Wings," "The Chocolate Flyer," "The Gum Drop Kid," and "The Chocolate Uncle." He eventually became known around the world as "The Candy Bomber".

As the candy drops continued, word of "Operation Little Vittles" reached the United States. American families, schoolchildren, and candymakers began contributing candy and homemade parachutes that Halvorsen and other pilots could drop.

When the Berlin airlift ended, an estimated 250,000 parachutes with 21 tons of candy had been dropped by Halvorsen and his fellow airmen as part of Operation Little Vittles. Halvorsen's candy drops had a significant impact on Berliners' public perception of America. He retired from the military in 1974 after 31 years of service and more than 8,000 hours of flying time. Since his retirement, Halvorsen has continued his humanitarian and community service. He has voluntarily represented the U.S. Air Force and the United States abroad and has re-enacted his famous candy drops several times in Berlin, the Middle East, and around the world in an effort to bring peace and relief. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, a German Order of Merit, an Air Force Commendation Medal, and a Medal for Humane Action. Halvorsen has also been a tremendous boon to his community through his church service.

His non-profit organization, the Gail S. Halvorsen Aviation Education Foundation, advances aviation education, promotes youth leadership development, enhances community capacity for emergency response, and encourages humanitarian on macro- and micro-levels. The Foundation also provides education by giving free lectures and multimedia presentations on aviation, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) topics at local schools, community groups, and at its own facility at the Spanish Fork Airport in Spanish Fork, Utah.

Renaming the Provo Vet Center in Orem, Utah after Colonel Halvorsen is a fitting and deserved recognition for such an exemplary U.S. Air Force veteran and American hero.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

DAVID JOHNSON,
Commander,
TERRAL CURTIS,
Sr. Vice Commander.
HEATH SILCOX,
Jr. Vice Commander.
DENNIS PARIZEK,
Adjutant/Quarter-
master.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
November 2, 2021.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Chairman MARK TAKANO,
Committee of Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member JERRY MORAN,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member MIKE BOST,
Committee of Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We ask you to accept this letter on behalf of Utah Department of Disabled American Veterans, in supporting the recommendation to change the name of the Provo Veterans Center in Orem, Utah to be renamed to honor Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen, exemplifying his compassion for humanity in a time of war.

Colonel Halvorsen is one of the focal points to our Americanism program here in Utah. In our program, we highlight local military heroes and their impact in service militarily and civically. He makes such an impact on our youth when they hear of his compassion for the children of a war-torn country. The simple act of caring became more than an isolated incident. His action locally started an action that was heard throughout the world. The exposure was so great that American candy companies, children and families got involved in supplying candies and homemade parachutes.

I have met Col. Halvorsen on several occasions. He is a very caring and humble man, and not only a local treasure but a National Treasure as well. Gail had never thought that one simple act could make such an impact on a nation or the world stage.

Please help us here in Utah and the Nation by giving back a little to an American Icon and National Treasure in the renaming of the Provo Veterans Center to the "Colonel Gail Halvorsen Veteran Center".

Sincerely,

JERRY ESTES,
Commander,
Disabled American Veterans,
Department of Utah.

NOVEMBER 3, 2021.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member JERRY MORAN,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Chairman MARK TAKANO,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member MIKE BOST,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEES: On behalf of the Utah American Legion I write to express our unconditional support for renaming the Provo Utah Vet Center after Col. Gail Halvorsen. His service to our nation is well documented in the background information.

Col. Halvorsen is a beloved figure here in Utah and has been named in the Hill Air Force Base aviation Hall of Fame.

We urge the Senate & House to pass this measure honoring this great American.

Sincerely,

TERRY SCHOW/FOR THE
COMMANDER GARY
MCKAY,
National Executive
Committee,
The American Legion
Utah.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2021.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Chairman MARK TAKANO,
Chairman on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member JERRY MORAN,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member MIKE BOST,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We, the members of the Utah delegation, write to recommend that the Provo Veterans Center located at 360 South State Street Building C Suite 103 in Orem, Utah be renamed after Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen, affectionately known as the "Candy Bomber," who performed military service of an extraordinarily distinguished character during the Berlin Airlift in 1948.

Halvorsen's creativity and compassion helped to heal the wounds of the Second World War and softened the relationship between an occupied Germany and the United States. Col. Halvorsen exemplifies the best of our brave veterans who have each demonstrated service before self.

Gail Halvorsen was assigned to Germany in 1948 to work as an airlift pilot where he flew C-47 and C-54 cargo planes as part of Operation "Vittles." While on mission at Tempelhof Airport in Berlin, Halvorsen noticed a group of German children standing just outside the barbed wire fence. The children were destitute and clearly had very little to eat. Halvorsen gave the children two sticks of gum he had in his pocket, which they split into little pieces to share among themselves. The looks of joy on their faces left an indelible impression. Colonel Halvorsen was deeply affected by the experience and wanted to do more to help. He promised the children he would drop more candy to them from his plane as he flew his regular airlift missions.

After enlisting his copilot in the project, Halvorsen began attaching their candy rations to miniature parachutes which he dropped from their plane to the starving children below. The children of Berlin gave Halvorsen many nicknames including "Uncle Wiggly Wings," "The Chocolate Flyer," "The Gum Drop Kid," and "The Chocolate Uncle." He eventually became known around the world as "The Candy Bomber."

As the candy drops continued, word of "Operation Little Vittles" reached the United States. American families, schoolchildren, and candymakers began contributing candy and homemade parachutes that Halvorsen and other pilots could drop.

When the Berlin Airlift ended, an estimated 250,000 parachutes with 21 tons of candy had been dropped by Halvorsen and his fellow airmen as a part of Operation Little Vittles. Halvorsen's candy drops had a significant impact on Berliners' public perception of America. He retired from the military in 1974 after 31 years of service and more than 8,000 hours of flying time. Since

his retirement, Halvorsen has continued his humanitarian and community service. He has voluntarily represented the U.S. Airforce and the United States abroad and has re-enacted his famous candy drops several times in Berlin, the Middle East, and around the world in an effort to bring peace and relief. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, a German Order of Merit, an Air Force Commendation Medal, and a Medal for Humane Action. Halvorsen has also been a tremendous boon to his community through church service.

His non-profit organization, the Gail S. Halvorsen Aviation Education Foundation, advances aviation education, promotes youth leadership development, enhances community capacity for emergency response, and encourages humanitarian service on macro- and micro-levels. The Foundation also provides education by giving free lectures and multimedia presentations on aviation, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) topics at local schools, community groups, and at its own facility at the Spanish Fork Airport in Spanish Fork, Utah.

Renaming the Provo Vet Center in Orem, Utah after Colonel Halvorsen is a fitting and deserved recognition for such an exemplary U.S. Air Force veteran and American hero. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL S. LEE,
United States Senator.
JOHN CURTIS,
Member of Congress.
BURGESS OWENS,
Member of Congress.
MITT ROMNEY,
United States Senator.
BLAKE MOORE,
Member of Congress.
CHRIS STEWART,
Member of Congress.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2514, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2514, a bill to rename the Provo Veterans Center in Utah after Colonel Gail Halvorsen.

Colonel Halvorsen is a Salt Lake City native who joined the Army Air Corps in 1942, in the midst of World War II. He served as a transport pilot and participated in the Berlin Airlift.

It was in Berlin where he earned the nickname "The Candy Bomber" for handing out pieces of candy to local children and, later, dropping candy from his aircraft while flying missions over the city.

Colonel Halvorsen retired from the military in 1974 after 31 years in uniform. He spent his civilian life as an active volunteer in his church and community. He passed away in February of this last year at age 101.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the deepest respect for Colonel Halvorsen's long life of service that we support the bill to allow the Provo Vet Center to bear his name.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 2514, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2514.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7500) to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2022, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7500

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fiscal Year 2022 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects in fiscal year 2022 at the locations specified and in an amount for each project not to exceed the amount specified for such location:

(1) Restoration and consolidation of the Gulfport Hospital in Biloxi, Mississippi, in an amount not to exceed \$341,500,000.

(2) Construction of a community living center and renovation of domiciliary and outpatient facilities in Canandaigua, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$443,900,000.

(3) Construction of a spinal cord injury center in Dallas, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$292,239,000.

(4) Construction of a new health care center in El Paso, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000,000.

(5) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$387,300,000.

(6) Construction of a new medical facility in Louisville, Kentucky, in an amount not to exceed \$953,000,000.

(7) Construction of a new surgical intensive care unit and renovated operating rooms in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in an amount not to exceed \$47,564,000.

(8) Seismic retrofit and renovation of buildings 100 and 101 in Portland, Oregon, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000,000.

(9) Construction of a spinal cord injury building with a community living center, including a parking garage, in San Diego, California, in an amount not to exceed \$262,100,000.

(10) Construction of a new research facility in San Francisco, California, in an amount not to exceed \$254,880,000.

(11) Replacement bed tower and clinical building expansion in St. Louis, Missouri, in an amount not to exceed \$135,340,000.

(12) Construction of a new critical care center in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$115,790,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2022 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects account, \$3,403,613,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 7500.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7500, the Fiscal Year 2022 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act.

I thank my colleague from Texas (Mr. ALLRED) for his work on this bill. I also thank the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator TESTER, for introducing the Senate companion to this important legislation.

Each year, the Department of Veterans Affairs submits an annual budget request to Congress, and it is our job to authorize and appropriate the funding the VA needs to care for America's veterans and their families.

Within that larger funding request is the VA's request for funds to replace and modernize its medical facilities. This year's major construction requests total just over \$3.4 billion. It will build a much-needed spinal cord injury center in Dallas, Texas; erect a new surgical intensive care unit and renovate operating rooms in Oklahoma City; construct a new critical care center in West Los Angeles; and allow for the seismic retrofit and renovation of buildings in Portland, Oregon, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress, the committee has highlighted VA's aging infrastructure. During our oversight efforts, the committee has learned that in order to fully recapitalize the Department's portfolio, the VA would need roughly \$90 billion.