

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### CAPTAIN ROSEMARY BRYANT MARINER OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7698) to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ventura, California, as the "Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7698

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) As of January 2021, of the 1,255 health care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, two are named after women.

(2) Rosemary Ann Bryant was born on April 2, 1953, in Harlingen, Texas, to Captain Cecil Bryant and Constance Boylan Bryant, a World War II Navy nurse.

(3) Captain Mariner was the first woman to enroll in the aeronautics program at Purdue University in 1971.

(4) Captain Mariner joined the Navy in 1973, and after graduating from officer candidate school that year, she became a member of the Navy's first flight-training class for women.

(5) In 1974, Captain Mariner was one of six women to earn her wings and in 1975 she became the first female Naval aviator to fly a jet attack aircraft.

(6) In July 1990, Captain Mariner was named commander of Navy "Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 34" at Naval Air Station Point Mugu in Ventura County, California. The unit was 30 percent female and made Captain Mariner the first woman to command an operational air squadron, even though women were still barred from flying combat missions.

(7) Captain Mariner became a passionate advocate for women in the military, leading the Women Military Aviators and working with Congress and the Department of Defense to lift restrictions barring women from flying in combat.

(8) Captain Mariner attended the National War College in the District of Columbia, earning a master's degree in national security strategy and served on the staff of the Joint Chiefs at the Pentagon, and a professor of joint military studies at the National War College.

(9) Captain Mariner retired from the Navy in 1997, and moved to Tennessee with her husband Commander Tommy Mariner and her daughter Emmalee.

(10) During her Naval career Captain Mariner logged 17 landings on aircraft carriers and more than 3500 flight hours in 15 different aircraft.

(11) In retirement, Captain Mariner continued her service in her community as a resident scholar in the University of Tennessee's Center for the Study of War and Society, and taught military history in UT's history department for 15 years.

(12) Captain Mariner passed away from ovarian cancer on January 24, 2019, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

(13) In honor of Captain Mariner, the United States Navy conducted its first all-

female flyover at the funeral service for Captain Mariner on Saturday, February 2, 2019, in Maynardville, Tennessee.

(14) In July 2021, a panel of Ventura County members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and military spouses recommended that the Ventura Medical Center be named in honor of Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CAPTAIN ROSEMARY BRYANT MARINER OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ventura, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam 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. 7698.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner, a member of the Navy's first flight-training class for women, the first woman to command a naval aviation squadron, and a lifelong advocate for women's military service.

The bill before us, H.R. 7698, would appropriately name the VA outpatient clinic in Ventura, California, the "Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic."

I thank Representative JULIA BROWNLEY, chairwoman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee's Women Veterans Task Force, for championing this effort.

The VA has more than 1,200 healthcare facilities nationwide, yet as of the beginning of this Congress, just two of these facilities bore the names of women veterans. Representative BROWNLEY's bill will begin to correct this regretful disparity.

More than 2 million women veterans live in the United States today. They serve across all military branches and divisions, and they are the fastest growing group of veterans that utilize VA healthcare services. So it is fitting that we honor a trailblazing woman like Captain Mariner at one of these VA healthcare facilities.

Captain Mariner had service to this country in her veins. The daughter of a World War II Navy nurse and Army

pilot killed in a plane crash when she was just 3 years old, Captain Mariner grew up watching planes take off and land at the Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego, California.

Captain Mariner went on to become the first woman to enroll in the aeronautics program at Purdue University in 1971, one of six initial women to earn her wings as a U.S. naval aviator in 1974, and the first woman aviator to fly a jet attack aircraft in 1975.

In 1990, Captain Mariner became commander of the Navy's tactical warfare squadron at Naval Air Station Point Mugu in Ventura County.

She continued in public service following her 24-year military career, teaching military history at the University of Tennessee for an additional 15 years.

At Captain Mariner's funeral service in 2019, following a long battle against ovarian cancer, the Navy conducted its first flyover featuring all female pilots. This was, like the naming of the Ventura VA outpatient clinic will be, a fitting tribute to a life of service to this Nation.

H.R. 7698 has letters of support from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD these three letters.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,  
*Sanger, CA, April 6, 2022.*

Rep. JULIA BROWNLEY,  
*Washington, DC.*

REP. BROWNLEY: The American Legion Department of California is proud to support the naming of the Ventura County Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic after Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

Since its founding in 1919, the American Legion has served veterans, service members, and communities throughout our nation. Our commitment to serving all veterans has been one of the main pillars outlining our purpose. As the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continues to make strides in the way it supports and cares for women veterans, I believe by renaming VA facilities after brave female veterans it is a great step towards recognizing the contribution of this Nation's woman warriors.

On behalf of the 80,000+ American Legion members in California we urge congress to take action to name this facility to honor this woman veteran who embodies the true essence of duty and service to our community, state, and Nation.

Respectfully,

AUTREY B. JAMES Jr.,  
Department Commander,  
The American Legion,  
Department of California.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
*Elk Grove, CA, November 1, 2021.*

Rep. JULIA BROWNLEY,  
*Washington DC.*

DEAR REP. BROWNLEY: On behalf of the sixty-four thousand members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California, I am writing to support naming the Ventura County Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic after Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

It is our privilege to help recognize and support the contributions of women in military service, notably Capt. Mariner, who we

believe embodies the requirements necessary to name a federal building in her honor. The panel convened in the Ventura County area consisting of members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and military spouses recommended that the Ventura Medical Center be named in honor of Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner and we agree that her military service and women veterans' advocacy is notable for this prestigious honor.

The VFW is committed to improve VA medical centers services for women veterans through legislative advocacy and fully support your work on behalf of our nation's veterans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

DAWN M. NAPIER,  
State Commander.

DAV,  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,

*Santa Fe Springs, CA, November 3, 2021.*

To: The Chairs and Ranking Members of both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees

Re Support Naming the Ventura VA Clinic after Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner

DEAR VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEES CHAIRS AND RANKING MEMBERS: As Commander of the Department of California Disabled American Veterans representing over 70,000 DAV Life Members in the State of California and in recognition of our fallen veterans and their survivors . . . as a department of veterans—who advocate daily for the heroes that served this nation; we sincerely urge you to support the bill created to rename the Ventura VA Clinic in Ventura, California, after the late Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

Since the Revolutionary War, millions of women and minorities have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. They have served in every role, from infantry soldier to cyber warfare engineer. Yet, as of January 2021, of the 1,255 VA healthcare facilities, only 13 have been dedicated to honor the service of minority veterans, and only two facilities have been named in honor of women veterans.

Rosemary Ann Bryant was born on April 2, 1953, in Harlingen, Texas, to Captain Cecil Bryant and Constance Boylan Bryant, a World War II Navy nurse. She was the first woman to enroll in the aeronautics program at Purdue University in 1971. She joined the Navy in 1973, and after graduating from officer candidate school that year, she became a member of the Navy's first flight-training class for women. In 1974, she was one of six women to earn her wings, and in 1975 she became the first female Naval Aviator to fly a jet attack aircraft.

In July 1990, Captain Mariner was named commander of Navy Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 34 at Naval Air Station Point Mugu in Ventura County, California. The unit was 30 percent female and made Captain Mariner the first woman to command an operational air squadron, even though women were still barred from flying combat missions. Captain Mariner became a passionate advocate for women in the military, leading the Women Military Aviators and working with Congress and the Defense Department to lift restrictions barring women from flying in combat.

She attended the National War College in Washington, DC., earning a master's degree in national security strategy and served on the staff of the Joint Chiefs at the Pentagon, and a professor of joint military studies at the National War College. Captain Mariner retired from the Navy in 1997 and moved to Tennessee with her husband Commander Tommy Mariner and her daughter Emmalee.

During her Navy career, Captain Mariner logged 17 landings on aircraft carriers and more than 3500 flight hours in 15 different aircraft. In retirement, she continued her service in her community as a resident scholar in the University of Tennessee's Center for the Study of War and Society and taught military history in UT's history department for 15 years.

Captain Mariner passed away from Ovarian Cancer on January 24, 2019, in Knoxville, Tennessee. In honor of Captain Mariner, the United States Navy conducted its first all-female flyover at the funeral service for Captain Mariner on Saturday, February 2, 2019, in Maynardville, Tennessee. In July 2021, a panel of Ventura County members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and military spouses recommended that the Ventura Medical Center be named in honor of Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

In a recent report, the VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans recommended inclusive naming of VA facilities "to demonstrate to women veterans that their service matters." While VA has concurred with the recommendation, it is the responsibility of Congress to pass legislation to actually name these facilities.

The Chairwoman of the Women Veterans Task Force has helped identify disparities in access to care and benefits, and, where necessary, introduced, advocated for, and passed legislation that fixes those gaps. Naming new or undedicated facilities for women veterans would be a symbolic step to show our appreciation for the great courage, dedication, and sacrifice that these veterans have demonstrated in defense of our Nation.

Please join me in honoring the incredible life of Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner by co-sponsoring this bill and signing onto the letter of support to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, a requirement to move the bill forward.

Thank you for your support of America's disabled veterans and their survivors. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Dept. of CA DAV Legislative Director Gerald G. "J.R." Wilson, Jr.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL KERR,  
Commander.  
DANIEL CONTRERAS,  
DAV National 2nd  
Vice Commander,  
Adjutant/CEO.  
GERALD G. WILSON, Jr.,  
Legislative Director.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill, I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7698, a bill to rename the VA outpatient clinic in Ventura, California, the Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic.

Captain Mariner was a trailblazer for women in military aviation. She was born in Texas and grew up in San Diego, California. Her mother was a Navy nurse, and her father was a military pilot. She grew up watching planes take off from Naval Air Station Miramar, which inspired her to save up for flying lessons.

In 1972, when she was just 19 years old, she became the first woman to graduate from Purdue University's aeronautical program. She then joined

the Navy and was selected as one of the first eight women to enter pilot training. In 1974, she became one of the first six women to earn their naval aviator pilot's wings.

She went on to become one of the first female aviators to fly the A-4 Skyhawk fighter aircraft, the first woman to fly the A-7 Corsair strike aircraft, the first female aviator to be assigned to an aircraft carrier, and the first woman to command an aviation squadron in the Navy.

She commanded a tactical electronic warfare squadron during the first Gulf war. After that, she was one of the first women in the Navy to be promoted to captain. She retired in 1997 after 24 years of military service with over 3,500 flight hours. Her funeral in 2019 was accompanied by the first all-female pilot flyover.

Captain Mariner's contributions to the U.S. military and the Nation were truly remarkable. She set a lasting example for women in the Navy, whose ranks will include, as of Wednesday, my own granddaughter, which I am very proud of, even though I am still having trouble with the Navy over the Marines thing.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud to support this bill, I am grateful to Congresswoman BROWNLEY for sponsoring it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to say I appreciate the ranking member's mentioning of his daughter and the connection with today's action. I also extend my pride, and I feel his pride. We also are thankful for his daughter's service.

Madam Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my good friend and the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Health. She is the author of H.R. 7698, a vital piece of legislation.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for being so supportive of this bill. I also thank Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER, and every member of the California delegation, for their support.

As the chair and ranking member mentioned, my bill, H.R. 7698, will name the new VA outpatient clinic in Ventura County after Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

This new VA clinic has been a long time in the making. Since I was elected to Congress, I have been working to expand VA services in Ventura County to ensure that our veterans have access to the timely and quality care that they have earned and deserve.

When I first came to Congress, it was clear that Ventura County veterans were being deeply underserved by the undersized and understaffed local VA clinic, so I immediately set out to work to correct the situation.

While I was able to secure improvements to the facility that existed, it

was clear that the large veteran population in our region needed a much larger facility and one run by VA personnel, personnel that understood them and understood their experiences. That was critically important.

Although the road to passing legislation to authorize a new facility was long, in 2017, my legislation was signed into law. This new clinic will be better equipped to deliver high-quality healthcare to a growing community of veterans living in Ventura County and in the area.

Importantly, the new clinic will have VA personnel and will offer expanded services and more specialty care, like dental care, physical therapy, rehabilitation services, optometry, audiology, podiatry, cardiology, and other services.

Getting the new facility open has been my highest priority in Congress, and I am very, very excited that it will be opening next Tuesday, September 27.

I am very grateful for the work of all the dedicated VA personnel in our region, who have been laser focused on getting this new facility opened and hiring all the necessary staff it needs.

□ 1830

Already, the reviews from local veterans who have toured the new facility have been very positive. I am hopeful that as veterans begin to get care at the facility, it will be truly transformative in their lives.

As chair of the Women Veterans Task Force, I am also especially pleased that the new clinic will be one of the first VA clinics in the country, and the very first in the greater Los Angeles area, with a women-only entrance.

Since the Revolutionary War, millions of women have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. However, when they leave the military, they are often invisible, and far too many women leave military service with the scars of military sexual trauma. The women-only entrance will ensure that our women veterans can feel safe and welcomed and, hopefully, never feel discouraged from seeking the care they need.

While opening this clinic has been my highest priority, I also believe that naming the clinic will provide us with yet another opportunity to recognize the service and sacrifice of our women veterans.

Women comprise the fastest growing and most diverse demographic in both the military and veteran populations.

Through my work in Congress, I am constantly reminded that women are the most visible while serving and the most invisible when they return to civilian life. This is symbolized, sadly, by the lack of VA facilities named after women veterans. In fact, of the 1,255 VA healthcare facilities, only two facilities have been named in honor of women veterans—only two.

To address this, I convened a local citizens advisory panel comprised of

veterans and community leaders to select a woman veteran for whom we could name the new clinic, and they selected Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

Captain Mariner, a former resident of Ventura County, joined the Navy in 1973, where she became a member of the Navy's first flight training class for women. In 1974, she was one of six women to earn her wings and, the following year, became the first female naval aviator to fly a jet attack aircraft.

Captain Mariner was named commander of the Naval Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 34 at Naval Air Station Point Mugu in Ventura County, California. The unit was 30 percent female and made Captain Mariner the first woman to command an operational air squadron.

Throughout her career, Captain Mariner was a passionate advocate for women in the military, leading the Women Military Aviators and working with Congress and the Department of Defense to lift restrictions barring women from flying in combat.

I could not be more pleased that the House is taking up my bill to honor Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

This bill and this clinic send a critically important message to our women veterans, and that is: We see you.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7698, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7698.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COLONEL CHARLES AND JOANNE POWELL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2771) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2771

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Colonel Charles Powell and his wife, Mrs. JoAnne Powell, served the community of San Angelo, Texas, with character and dignity.

(2) Colonel Powell served as the base commander of Goodfellow Air Force Base from 1980 to 1984.

(3) When the Powells moved to San Angelo, Charles was ordered to help Goodfellow avoid closure and the displacement of many members of the Armed Forces from the community they had grown to love.

(4) The impact of Charles' career can still be felt today at Goodfellow Air Force Base, as it serves as a training school for thousands of members from every Armed Force to train in cryptology, intelligence, and firefighting.

(5) JoAnne assisted thousands of constituents in the district offices of Representatives Tom Loeffler, Lamar Smith, K. Michael Conaway, and August Pfluger.

(6) One of the several duties JoAnne spearheaded was the annual process of nominations to the military service academies, which was always a year-round process for her.

(7) With JoAnne's assistance, many of the young men and women of the 11th congressional district of Texas went on to serve the United States and attend one of the military service academies.

(8) In addition, JoAnne was a fierce advocate of veterans and helped thousands of individuals gain access to the veterans benefits they rightfully earned.

(9) JoAnne's compassion and dedication helped make the Concho Valley a better place.

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN SAN ANGELO, TEXAS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 2771.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the lives of Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell, both of whom served the community of San Angelo, Texas, and advocated for veterans for many years.