

“(1) The number of covered children receiving health care or benefits under this chapter as of the date on which the report is submitted.

“(2) The number of covered children for which the Department is paying for or providing a social worker as of such date.

“(3) Metrics on outreach conducted under section 1836(b) of this title.”.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health of the Department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding—

(1) to better assist covered children (as defined in section 1831 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)); and

(2) to establish conditions to be included in the report required by section 1836(c) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (b).

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the advisory council required under section 1835 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (b).

(2) CARE AND COORDINATION TEAMS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the care and coordination teams required under section 1836 of such title, as added by subsection (b).

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new items:

“1835. Advisory council.

“1836. Care and coordination teams.

“1837. Duration of health care and benefits provided.

“1838. Biennial report.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 112.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Senator BRAUN of Indiana's bill, S. 112, which strengthens the spina bifida program at VA.

Children who are born to veterans exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides have a higher risk of being born with this condition. Their condition can range from mild to severe, but children faced with this lifelong impact of spina bifida have many special needs.

Under current law, the VA Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program provides monetary and healthcare benefits to select children of Vietnam-era veterans and veterans of covered service in Korea or Thailand.

Senator BRAUN's commonsense legislation would improve the current pro-

gram by establishing care and coordination teams for these children to ensure they have the care and support and continued connections that they need for their entire lives.

Additionally, this bill would require VA to create an advisory council on healthcare and benefits for children living with spina bifida. This council would solicit feedback on healthcare, job training, and monetary benefits to ensure that these children have access to leading therapies and medical research.

For a lot of veterans' families, I know this legislation would make a real difference in their daily lives.

I thank Representative BAIRD for his work on this issue and for introducing the House companion to this bill, H.R. 3888.

I know these Members have heard from Hoosiers about this problem for many years, and I appreciate their efforts to help their constituents and other families.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 112 today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 112, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senator BRAUN of Indiana.

This legislation aims to strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs' administration of an existing program that provides healthcare benefits and compensation to children of Vietnam war veterans who were born with spina bifida. This bill is endorsed by the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Spina bifida is a birth defect that can cause paralysis, nerve damage, and bowel and bladder problems. Children born with spina bifida may receive benefits from VA if one of their biological parents is a veteran presumed to have been exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange during the Vietnam war.

The program is jointly administered by the Veterans Benefits Administration, or VBA, and the Veterans Health Administration, or VHA. It provides a monetary allowance, healthcare coverage, and vocational training and rehabilitation. As of 2022, fewer than 1,000 beneficiaries were enrolled in the program.

According to a 2021 VA Office of Inspector General report examining the VA's administration of this program, VBA and VHA were not adequately communicating or sharing data on spina bifida program beneficiaries. This contributed to delays in some new beneficiaries being enrolled in healthcare and improper payments being sent to some beneficiaries after their deaths.

The inspector general also found the VA did not consistently conduct outreach to eligible and enrolled beneficiaries and did not provide effective case management services for the most

seriously disabled beneficiaries. In some cases, VA's call center agents provided inaccurate information about the spina bifida program or could not direct callers to reliable sources of information.

S. 112 directs VA to establish an advisory council for the spina bifida program, which would be responsible for soliciting feedback from covered children and veterans about the program's effectiveness. This legislation also requires VA to establish care coordination teams, which will contact beneficiaries at least once every 180 days to ensure they are accessing needed care. Finally, S. 112 would require VA to report to Congress every 2 years on the number of covered children receiving benefits, the number of children receiving care coordination, and the outcome of the outreach conducted to these populations.

Madam Speaker, I support this important piece of legislation, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 112 to strengthen VA's benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 112.

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. BOST. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HIROSHI “HERSHEY” MIYAMURA VA CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 475) to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 475

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF HIROSHI “HERSHEY” MIYAMURA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura was born on October 6, 1925, in Gallup, New Mexico.

(2) A second generation Japanese American, Hershey Miyamura first served in the

United States Army near the end of World War II.

(3) Hershey Miyamura served in the Army at a time when many of his fellow Japanese Americans, and that includes his future wife, were detained in internment camps in the United States.

(4) Hershey Miyamura served in the storied 442nd Infantry Regiment, which was composed of soldiers with Japanese ancestry and became one of the most decorated units in the history of the United States military.

(5) Following the start of the Korean War in 1950, the Army recalled Hershey Miyamura, who had remained as a member of the reserve components of the Army, back into active duty.

(6) During an overnight firefight from April 24 to April 25, 1951, then-Corporal Miyamura covered the withdrawal of his entire company from advancing enemy forces as a machine gun squad leader.

(7) The selfless actions by Hershey Miyamura that night allowed all 16 of his men to withdraw safely before he was severely wounded and captured as a prisoner of war.

(8) Nearly 2½ years later, following his release and return to the United States, President Eisenhower presented Hershey Miyamura with the Congressional Medal of Honor in a ceremony at the White House.

(9) The lifelong dedication of Hershey Miyamura to the United States never ceased. It continued long after his decorated military service ended.

(10) After he received his honorable discharge from the Army, Hershey Miyamura opened a service station along Route 66 in his hometown of Gallup, New Mexico.

(11) Hershey Miyamura remained active in his community until his dying days, advocating for his fellow veterans and inspiring young people with lectures on patriotism, faith, and service.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2075 South NM Highway 602, Gallup, New Mexico, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Hiroshi ‘Hershey’ Miyamura Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the “Hiroshi ‘Hershey’ Miyamura VA Clinic”.

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in subsection (b) shall be considered to be a reference to the “Hiroshi ‘Hershey’ Miyamura VA Clinic”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 475.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill designating the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic.

Hiroshi Miyamura was born in Gallup, New Mexico, the son of a Japanese

immigrant. He received the nickname “Hershey” from his fourth grade teacher, who could not pronounce his first name correctly. I know how that happens.

□ 1645

He joined the U.S. Army during the final days of World War II, served as a machine gunner in the storied 442nd Infantry Regiment. Following the war, he remained in the Army Reserve.

At the onset of the Korean war, “Hershey” was recalled to Active Duty and, once again, sent to the front lines. He earned the Medal of Honor for his actions during a firefight that occurred overnight from April 24 to April 25, 1951.

Overwhelmed by the enemy forces, Corporal Miyamura covered the safe withdrawal of his entire company, despite being wounded himself. Unfortunately, he was captured immediately after his heroic actions. He was held as a prisoner of war for 28 months and released on August 20, 1953, a month after the end of the Korean war.

In October of that year, President Eisenhower presented the Medal of Honor to Staff Sergeant Miyamura.

After his honorable discharge, he returned to his community in Gallup, New Mexico, where he became an automobile mechanic and service station owner. More importantly, he remained active supporting his fellow veterans and inspiring young people with his patriotism and continued service.

Hiroshi Miyamura is an inspiring American hero. He was born to immigrants, rose to the call of a Nation, put himself before others in combat, and served as a valuable member of society afterwards.

This bill ensures his sacrifice and legacy will always be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this bill, Senator HEINRICH, as well as the entire New Mexico delegation, for recognizing this American hero. I urge all my colleagues to support S. 475.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 475, a bill to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic.

This bill honors a great American from the Greatest Generation. I thank Senator HEINRICH for sponsoring this bill and Representative LEGER FERNANDEZ for offering the House companion.

Born in Gallup, New Mexico, the son of immigrants, Mr. Miyamura joined the Army in 1944. He was assigned to the now-storied 442nd Regimental Combat Team, although he arrived too late in Europe to see much action. However, his military service did not end with World War II.

He enlisted in the Army Reserves after the war and was called into Active Duty with the outbreak of the Korean war. He became a squad leader in the 3rd Infantry Division.

On the night of April 24, 1951, Corporal Miyamura’s unit of machine gunners and riflemen came under attack. He killed 10 enemy soldiers with his bayonet. He then blasted away with his machine gun, a rifle, and grenades and wielded his bayonet again to allow his men to retreat.

He killed more than 50 of the enemy before his ammunition was depleted and he was severely wounded. He was captured and held for 28 months as a prisoner of war until he was released in 1953 after the armistice.

For his conduct, then-Corporal Miyamura was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity. He was awarded the medal in secret in 1951 while he was a POW, but it was finally presented in public in 1953.

Achieving the rank of staff sergeant, Mr. Miyamura returned to New Mexico. His dedication and patriotism continued after he returned from South Korea to share his experiences in the war.

He also served as an integral part of the lives of veterans and others in his community. Mr. Miyamura once said:

Until I saw that flag—the Star-Spangled Banner waving in the breeze—did I know. I’ve learned what it represents. That alone is what makes you feel so humble. So many of these fellas who deserve it never came home to any recognition. There are so many Americans who don’t know what the medal represents or what any soldier or servicewoman or -man does for this country, and I believe one of these days—I hope one of these days—they will learn of the sacrifices that a lot of the men and women have made for this country.

Madam Speaker, let this legislation be an opportunity to let our fellow Americans know about the service and sacrifice that came before.

Madam Speaker, I support this important piece of legislation, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), my very good friend who serves on the House Rules Committee and House Committee on Natural Resources.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. TAKANO and the chair for allowing me to speak today in support of S. 475, which Senator HEINRICH and I introduced. It would designate the Veterans Affairs clinic in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic.

Corporal Hiroshi, or “Hershey” as those in New Mexico called him early on, was born in 1925 to Japanese immigrants in Gallup, New Mexico. Beautiful Gallup, New Mexico, is in my district and it is surrounded by beautiful

mountains, mesas, the Navajo Nation, the Zuni Pueblo, and others. It is a tremendously, achingly beautiful place, but from Gallup, he answered the call to serve not just once, but twice in his life—first in World War II and then in the Korean war.

He wanted to fight for his country in World War II but was ineligible because of his ancestry until 1945. He then served in the 442nd Infantry Regiment, a unit entirely composed of Japanese Americans because we must remember that at the time that he was answering the call to service, we were suffering in the United States a period of hatred and xenophobia toward Japanese Americans, which makes his answer to the call of service even more extraordinary and for which we are even more grateful.

In 1951, Corporal Miyamura held off enemy soldiers that threatened his machine gun squad. He faced them in hand-to-hand combat. He single-handedly held the line giving his squad time to reach safety. Corporal Miyamura would spend the next 28 months as a prisoner of war.

Corporal Miyamura was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service, only learning of his achievement upon his release in 1953. I thank Mr. TAKANO for sharing those most moving words, Madam Speaker, that he spoke upon receiving that medal. He was the second to last living Korean war Medal of Honor recipient. Now, his passing in November 2022 reminds us of the sacrifices our veterans make to defend our beautiful Nation.

The Gallup community is extremely proud to have been Corporal Miyamura's home where he returned. The Veterans Affairs Clinic in Gallup provides essential care to veterans and their dependents. It is one of our rural CBOCs that provides essential care, so our veterans don't have to spend 2 to 3 hours on the road to get the care that we have promised our veterans.

I have visited that clinic. I visited with the veterans in Gallup, and they have asked me about the status of this designation. I am going to be really happy when we pass this, hopefully this week, to tell them we have done it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. We will name this clinic after him so that he can keep watch over his brothers and sisters in arms as their guardian angel. We will remember him, Gallup will miss him, a Nation will miss him, but most of all, we will continue to honor him.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Corporal Miyamura and vote for Senate bill 475.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 475, a bill to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in

Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura VA Clinic.

Let me just add that I had three great uncles who served in the 442nd, a storied Regimental Combat Team. It is always a poignant story about their service, and I thank the chairman for offering his support in the commemoration of their service to our country.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I, once again, encourage Members to support this legislation. This is truly a piece of legislation that helps the community know and understand how a gallant hero served this Nation. A Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest award. It is not given lightly. For a person who truly did face a time when persecution happened to his people but still served this Nation, it is a true honor that we need to bestow on him.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 475.

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. BOST. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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.

WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE MEMORIAL AND SACRED SITE ACT

Mr. COLLINS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3371) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3371

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 "Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) RESTRICTED FEE STATUS.—The term "restricted fee status" means a status in which the Tribal land—

(A) shall continue to be owned by the Tribes;

(B) shall be part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and expressly made subject to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Oglala Sioux Tribe;

(C) shall not be transferred without the consent of Congress and the Tribes;

(D) shall not be subject to taxation by a State or local government; and

(E) shall not be subject to any provision of law providing for the review or approval by

the Secretary of the Interior before the Tribes may use the land for any purpose as allowed by the document titled "Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe" and dated October 21, 2022, directly, or through agreement with another party.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) TRIBAL LAND.—The term "Tribal land" means the approximately 40 acres (including the surface and subsurface estate, and mineral estate, and any and all improvements, structures, and personal property on those acres) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Oglala Lakota County, at Rural County Road 4, Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and generally depicted as "Area of Interest" on the map entitled "Wounded Knee Sacred Site and Memorial Land" and dated October 26, 2022, which is a segment of the December 29, 1890, Wounded Knee Massacre site.

(4) TRIBES.—The term "Tribes" means the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, both tribes being among the constituent tribes of the Great Sioux Nation and signatories to the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 between the United States of America and the Great Sioux Nation, 15 Stat. 635.

SEC. 3. LAND HELD IN RESTRICTED FEE STATUS BY THE TRIBES.

(a) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 365 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) complete all actions, including documentation and minor corrections to the survey and legal description of Tribal land, necessary for the Tribal land to be held by the Tribes in restricted fee status; and

(2) appropriately assign each applicable private and municipal utility and service right or agreement with regard to the Tribal land.

(b) CONDITIONS.—

(1) FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO INDIAN LAND.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Tribal land shall be subject to Federal laws relating to Indian country, as defined by section 1151 of title 18, United States Code and protected by the restriction against alienation in section 177 of title 25, United States Code.

(2) USE OF LAND.—The Tribal land shall be used for the purposes allowed by the document titled "Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe" and dated October 21, 2022.

(3) ENCUMBRANCES AND AGREEMENTS.—The Tribal land shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) GAMING.—Pursuant to the document titled "Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe" and dated October 21, 2022, the Tribal land shall not be used for gaming activity under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3371, the bill now under consideration.