

Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He served on the national board of directors for that organization for 20 years, including as secretary, vice president, and president.

In that role, he returned to Vietnam 16 times, leading the initiative to work with his Vietnamese counterparts to create the fullest possible account of those still missing in action from both sides of the war. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of this important work.

As president of the Vietnam Veterans Peace Initiative, Mr. Corey was instrumental in building a maternal health clinic to provide medical support for those dealing with the lasting effects of Agent Orange.

Mr. Corey's lifelong commitment to serving his country and his fellow veterans must be remembered. As he once put it: "It is so important that the country just takes time to take a moment to recognize the sacrifice that the men and women that served our country in defending this Nation. Whether they went off to war or not, they joined the military or were drafted and did their job serving their country because they cared about it. Hopefully, more people will do that, take the time, and let them know and say: Thank you for serving. It is so important."

I can think of no better way to thank Mr. Thomas Corey for his important service than to pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I support this piece of legislation and ask that my colleagues do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and ranking member for recognizing an amazing man. I wish we could do this for every single veteran. Every single veteran deserves far more, but today is a victory, doing it for this veteran.

I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 7333, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center.

I am going to speak about him as a friend because he was a friend. I would say this about him: He exhausted himself in the most worthy cause that he could find, and the most worthy cause that he could find was veterans.

Every veteran that he could find from every conflict, every war, not just his war, but anybody that put a flag on their shoulder, that put on a uniform on behalf of the United States of America, it gave him a sense of joy, a smile. He was a cheerful giver. Whatever he could do for one of our brothers and sisters in arms, that is how he lived his life every day.

□ 1600

Tom Corey served during the Vietnam war as an Army combat infantry-

man with the 1st Air Cavalry Division, 1st Battalion, and 12th Cavalry.

While engaged in an assault against enemy positions during the first day of the Tet Offensive, he was shot in the neck, leaving him permanently paralyzed.

Although he had injuries for the rest of his life, he did not let his injuries define him. He overcame his injuries to advocate for others in local, regional, and national veterans' organizations every single day going forward during his life.

Tom Corey was a longtime member of Vietnam Veterans of America, founding the Palm Beach County chapter at home in my district. He held multiple leadership roles in organizations, ultimately serving as the president of Vietnam Veterans of America from 2003 to 2005.

Mr. Corey was a tireless advocate for our veterans' healthcare, particularly Vietnam veterans suffering from illnesses attributed to Agent Orange. He worked for 15 years at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center as an ombudsman, ensuring that veterans received the highest quality of care day in and day out.

Despite all of his efforts advocating for veterans here at home, he never forgot his brothers-in-arms who were still missing in action. Mr. Corey returned to Vietnam 16 times leading delegations to meet up with top Vietnamese and Laotian officials focused on locating and repatriating the remains of those he served shoulder to shoulder with.

Along with multiple service medals, including two Purple Hearts, Mr. Corey was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts and his work.

Tom Corey has shown the world that no injury was big enough to eclipse his mission to serve others. Naming the West Palm Beach VA in his honor is the least we can do to honor his legacy of service and his passionate advocacy for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Florida delegation for their support on this effort, and I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I certainly appreciate Congressman MAST bringing to the Nation's attention this great American. I am inspired and I am grateful that we are renaming this facility in Florida in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7333, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this piece of legislation. This is exactly why we name our facilities after those veterans who have served to this level, not only as a veteran and in military service but also in their civilian life.

Mr. 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, H.R. 7333.

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.

#### CHARLIE DOWD VA CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3285) to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, as the "Charlie Dowd VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3285

*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) Charles "Charlie" Arthur Dowd was born on December 23, 1923, in Rochester, New York.

(2) In January 1941, during his senior year of high school, Charlie enlisted for service at sea in the Navy, where he was trained as a radioman and later stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

(3) On December 7, 1941, just after completing a night shift, Charlie and United States Naval forces positioned at Pearl Harbor came under attack by more than 300 enemy aircraft belonging to the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service.

(4) During the attack on the heart of the United States Pacific Fleet, which would severely damage 21 ships and claim the lives of 2,400 Americans, Charlie emerged in only his t-shirt and trousers and sprinted from the barracks to the armory, where he climbed to the roof with a .30-06 Springfield rifle to fire at the Japanese pilots of low-flying torpedo bombers.

(5) Following his bravery at Pearl Harbor, Charlie would go on to continue serving the Navy in both the Solomon Islands and New Guinea, where his fellow shipmates would give him the nickname of "Devil Dog Dowd", for his unwavering willingness to volunteer for the most dangerous mission assignments.

(6) During the course of his service in the Navy, Charlie was awarded seven Bronze Star Medals.

(7) After Charlie received an honorable discharge from the Navy, he returned to the United States, where he worked in masonry and carpentry construction, before completing his degree at the University of Florida. Upon graduation, he spent the next 18 years passing on his knowledge of industrial arts and drafting to high school students.

(8) In 1984, as an avid sportsman with a passion for the outdoors, Charlie later relocated to Anaconda, Montana.

(9) Charlie was a vibrant and cherished member of the local community in Anaconda, where he became the Secretary of the Anaconda Sportsmen's Club and the Outdoor Writer for the Anaconda Leader newspaper.

(10) Charlie was forever an advocate for his fellow veterans and dedicated to preserving the memory of the events of World War II and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Until his dying days, Charlie

was an active member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and loved speaking for civic groups and museums across Montana.

## SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CHARLIE DOWD VA CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Charlie Dowd Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the “Charlie Dowd 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 Charlie Dowd 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. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 3285.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3285, a bill renaming the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, as the Charlie Dowd VA Clinic.

Charlie Dowd enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a radioman during his senior year of high school in March of 1941. His first duty station was Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On that fateful morning of December 7, 1941, Charlie was in his bunk and immediately sprang into action at the sound of danger. He ran toward the enemy fire and attempted to shoot down enemy aircraft.

Charlie would go on to serve in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea campaigns during the war, earning seven Bronze Star Medals for his service.

After he left the Navy, he returned to his home State of New York where he served his community again as a high school teacher.

After serving as a sailor and a teacher, Charlie retired to Anaconda, Montana, where he spent his sunset years fishing and hunting. Montana's last Pearl Harbor survivor died peacefully at the age of 99 on March 17, 2023.

Charlie is a testament to American bravery, and I am proud to support this bill so that his story of service will continue to be told for generations of Americans.

I thank the sponsor of this legislation, Senator DAINES, and my friend, Mr. ZINKE, as well as Representative ROSENDALE and the entire Montana delegation for leading this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support S. 3285, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 3285, a bill to designate the community-based outreach clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, as the Charlie Dowd VA Clinic.

Charlie Dowd was Montana's last known survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Charlie Dowd had just settled into his cot after a long night shift in the early hours of December 7, 1941. Without hesitating, the 17-year-old Dowd leapt into action at the sound of the bombs, sprinting from the barracks to the armory in only his T-shirt and trousers.

There, he retrieved his rifle and fired at low-flying enemy torpedo bombers, some of the first American shots fired in World War II.

Mr. Dowd continued to serve aboard Navy fighting vessels in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea. Never one to back away from a challenge, Charlie earned the moniker “Devil Dog Dowd” from his shipmates, who saw him volunteer for the most dangerous assignments time and time again. Mr. Dowd was honored with seven Bronze Star Medals before his honorable discharge from military service.

Returning to his home of Rochester, New York, Mr. Dowd worked as a mason and contractor. He eventually relocated to Dunnellon, Florida, where, after completing his degree at the University of Florida, he became a high school teacher.

Mr. Dowd shared his knowledge of industrial arts and drafting with his students, helping them to design and build residential houses and even commercial buildings and reinvesting the profits of these projects into the school and the local community.

In recognition of his inspiring and transformative work, he was promoted to regional director for building trades in the Florida public school system to expand the success throughout Florida.

Mr. Dowd was an advocate for his fellow veterans and worked to preserve the memory of the events of World War II as an active member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

After a long career in Florida, Mr. Dowd retired to Anaconda, Montana, in 1984. Mr. Dowd passed away in 2023 at the age of 99.

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

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor, and remember the extraordinary life of an American hero, Charlie Dowd, who truly embodied the Montana spirit of patriotism, courage, and hard work.

Heroes like Charlie Dowd are what make America a beacon of hope here and abroad.

Through his exemplary and selfless service to our great Nation during the attack on Pearl Harbor, at just 17 years of age, and his continued defense of our country in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea as a member of the United States Navy, Charlie undoubtedly faced the horrors of war and remained committed to defending our Nation despite uncertainty and life-threatening challenges.

Even after serving, Charlie was an active member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association where he continued to provide care for his fellow veterans and was recognized as the last survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack living in Montana.

Charlie's legacy deserves to be honored, admired, and preserved. By establishing the new VA clinic in Butte to be named in his honor, we can ensure that future generations of Montanans will remember the Greatest Generation and Charlie's legacy.

Naming the facility that provides care for thousands of veterans across the Treasure State in Charlie's honor would be a worthy accolade for his bravery and service to our great Nation.

Charlie Dowd devoted his life to defending our freedoms, serving our veterans, and strengthening Montana communities. By passing this legislation today, the memory of him and his heroic acts of patriotism will be truly memorialized.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Ranking Member TAKANO's support for this legislation. I hope my colleagues will do the same.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am always moved by poignant examples of veterans who, once they take off their uniforms after valiant service, still go on to serve our country and serve their communities.

Charlie Dowd is certainly an example of that, especially deserving of the honor of having the community-based outpatient clinic at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, named as the “Charlie Dowd VA Clinic.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 3285, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, as has been mentioned in previous pieces of legislation, there is a reason why we name our facilities after these men.

Charlie Dowd was an amazing person who stood up for this Nation and truly pursued the American Dream and served the Nation almost 100 years of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of S. 3285, which would rename the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Butte, Montana, as the “Charlie Dowd VA Clinic.” This bill is the Senate companion to my bill, H.R. 7154.

Born in Rochester, New York, Charlie enlisted in the Navy while still in high school. On one fateful morning at 17 years old he awoke to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Rather than running for cover or choosing self-preservation, Charlie chose to fight back and led a counter-offensive on a nearby rooftop. Armed with only a rifle and dressed only in his T-shirt and boxer shorts, he fired some of the first shots against the Japanese on that day which ended up claiming the lives of 2,403 American servicemembers, 14 of which were Montanans.

Charlie Dowd went on to become a high school teacher where he taught the next generations of great Americans to become patriots who were inspired by his acts of courage and selfless service.

An avid sportsman, Charlie moved to Anaconda, Montana and continued his active membership in the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

While in Montana, Charlie leaned into his passion as a sportsman by spending time hunting, fishing, and writing a weekly column named 'The Wild Side' which became a staple for the Anaconda Deer Lodge community as well as Western Montana as a whole.

I remember visiting with him over the years and even 70 years after Pearl Harbor, at 99 years old, he could still tap the messages he sent as a radioman in Morse code.

Charlie was one of the last living survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a Montana legend, and a true American hero. By renaming this clinic in his honor, we pay tribute to his legacy and ensure that future generations of veterans receive the care they deserve.

Let us pass this bill with unanimous consent, demonstrating our unwavering support for our veterans, their families, and the memory of Charlie Dowd.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). 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. 3285.

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.

□ 1615

#### ROYALTY RESILIENCY ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7377) to amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 to improve the management of royalties from oil and gas leases, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7377

*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 "Royalty Resiliency Act".

#### SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF ALLOCATIONS OF PRODUCTION FOR UNITS AND COMMUNITIZATION AGREEMENTS.

Section 111(j) of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1721(j)), as amended by the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-185), is amended to read as follows:

"(j) The Secretary shall issue all determinations of allocations of production for units and communitization agreements within 120 days of a request for determination. Until the Secretary issues the determination, the lessee or its designee of a lease in a unit or communitization agreement shall report and pay royalties on oil and gas production for each production month in accordance with the terms of the proposed allocation of production for the unit or communitization agreement. After the Secretary issues the determination, the lessee or its designee shall, as necessary, correct such reports and the amount of royalties paid on oil and gas production under the unit or communitization agreement by not later than the end of the third month following the month in which the lessee or its designee receives the determination from the Secretary. Subject to the full and timely monthly payment of royalties to all parties in accordance with the terms of the proposed allocation of production for the unit or communitization agreement, the Secretary shall waive interest due on obligations subject to the determination until the end of the third month following the month in which the lessee or its designee receives the determination from the Secretary. This subsection shall not apply to unit or communitization agreements containing Indian lands."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 7377, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7377, the Royalty Resiliency Act. H.R. 7377, introduced by Congressman HUNT, addresses issues in existing law with respect to how oil and gas royalties are paid to the Federal Government.

When an oil and gas project involving a Federal lease cannot be independently developed because of other State or private assets, the Bureau of Land Management utilizes communitization agreements, or CAs.

Although the BLM is required by law to approve CAs within 120 days of receipt, the agency has failed to meet this standard, with operators experiencing wait times of up to 3 years.

Currently, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, often referred to as ONRR, requires oil and gas operators to pay a 100 percent royalty for projects all while they await BLM approval of a CA, even if only a fraction of their project involves Federal lands or minerals. As a result, many operators end up significantly overpaying royalties while they wait years for BLM approval.

This bill provides a commonsense fix that would allow operators to pay a royalty to ONRR that is based on the apportionment in their proposed CA.

This bill would not reduce the obligation owed by companies but would prevent overpayments that unnecessarily lock up capital and create a bureaucratic mess for the Department of the Interior. Furthermore, in the rare case that a proposed royalty is found to be incorrect when a CA is approved, the bill requires the lessee to pay the government within 3 months.

I would also like to note that the Committee on Natural Resources worked with the BLM to finalize this bill, and it is supported by the Department of the Interior.

This bill will benefit operators as well as Federal and State Governments while ensuring a fair and more predictable regulatory environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 7377, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague, Chairman WESTERMAN, in support of H.R. 7377, the Royalty Resiliency Act, sponsored by my colleague, Representative HUNT.

I have to say that not many oil and gas bills can make it through the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent and to the floor on suspension, so I commend my colleague for working on this reasonable, technical fix that has the support of the Biden administration.

This represents how we should, in fact, get things done, where we come together, where we work things out, and where we include the BLM so that we understand how to get the technical fix done.

As noted, under current law, oil and gas lessees who are on land that is partially Federally owned and partially owned by the State or private owners need to get a communitization agreement, or CA, approved by the Department of the Interior, which outlines how much of the royalty payments should be paid to each landowner.

While a lessee is waiting for approval on that CA from the Department of the Interior, they pay 100 percent of the royalties to the Federal Government, even in cases where the Federal Government does not own 100 percent of the land.

When the CA is finally approved, then the State or private landowners get reimbursed for their share of the