

Medals for exceptional valor in Guam and the Philippines, aiding wounded soldiers under fire.

Private First Class Doss and the members of the 77th Infantry Division were assigned a major role during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945, the bloodiest conflict in the Pacific. The nearly 3-month-long battle resulted in roughly 49,000 American casualties, including 13,000 servicemembers who were killed in action.

Private First Class Doss demonstrated extraordinary heroism during the Battle of Okinawa, saving upwards of over 100 soldiers over the course of the conflict while routinely placing himself in the line of fire. Many of the casualties he saved were during operations during the notorious Maeda Escarpment, commonly called Hacksaw Ridge.

Time and again in the conflict, Private First Class Doss exposed himself to heavy rifle and mortar fire to provide aid to wounded soldiers and evacuate them to safety.

Even when Private First Class Doss sustained his own injuries, he never gave up on providing aid to his fellow soldiers. While tending to wounded soldiers during a night raid, Private First Class Doss was seriously wounded in the legs from a grenade blast. To avoid having another medic risk his life to save him, he valiantly cared for his own wounds and waited 5 hours before a medical evacuation team could reach him.

Noticing a critically wounded soldier nearby, Private First Class Doss crawled off the litter he was laying on and ensured his evacuation team cared for that man first. In all, Private First Class Doss saved the lives of 75 wounded infantrymen.

For his tremendous bravery and heroism, Private First Class Doss was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman on October 12, 1945.

The immense courage, sacrifice, and patriotism that Private First Class Doss displayed while serving in the Pacific theater are in many ways unfathomable.

As a nation, we owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid, but we should commit to honoring his legacy. I can think of no better way to ensure that his service is remembered for generations to come.

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

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I proudly support the legislation to name the Lynchburg, Virginia, VA Clinic after Private First Class Desmond T. Doss, a World War II hero and Medal of Honor recipient.

This bill, S. 3938, is the Senate companion following and complementing

my original legislation, and I thank Senator WARNER for joining me in championing this cause.

Desmond Doss is greatly admired in my district, and in May of 2023 at the request of some of my constituents, I introduced a bill to rename the Lynchburg VA Clinic after him in honor of his outstanding legacy.

It is fitting for the building that provides healthcare services to our Nation's heroes to be named after one who dedicated his military career to saving as many lives as possible.

A devout Seventh-day Adventist, Doss believed that killing in all circumstances was wrong, nevertheless, he still chose to serve his country as a medic in the United States Army when called upon during World War II.

Doss proved his heroism in battle and under fire and became the first conscientious objector to be awarded the Medal of Honor after fearlessly saving 75 wounded men in the Battle of Okinawa.

As the Medal of Honor citation describes: "Doss refused to seek cover and remained in the fire-swept area with the many stricken, carrying them one by one to the edge of the escarpment and there lowering them on a rope-supported litter down the face of a cliff to friendly hands."

The citation describes many more instances where Doss disregarded his own personal safety to protect others.

Many Americans saw his story depicted in the popular 2016 movie "Hacksaw Ridge."

His extraordinary bravery was true faith in action. Although he didn't have to pay the ultimate price in battle, he lived the words of Jesus in the Gospel of John: Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Doss' humble beginnings were in my district, in Lynchburg, Virginia, and Lynchburg has always loved him. In 1945, the city threw a parade in his honor, but it has been nearly 80 years since then, and Lynchburg wants another opportunity to celebrate one of our most heroic citizens.

Today, if the House passes this bill, it will be sent to the President's desk, and this Congress will have done a small thing to honor a great man. I trust my colleagues will join me in voting "yes."

In conclusion, I thank the entire Virginia delegation for uniting behind this bill. I would especially like to thank Steve Bozeman, my veteran constituent, who came to me with this idea. Steve Bozeman leads a weekly gathering to support the troops in Lynchburg, Virginia, and this group of mostly veterans has met without fail every Friday for more than 20 years, so well over 1,000 consecutive Fridays to honor our veterans and our military servicemembers.

Finally, I express my gratitude for the sacrifices made by all veterans and servicemembers who fought to keep our Nation safe. Mr. Speaker, it has

been a privilege to represent them in Congress.

□ 1700

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 3938 to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Lynchburg, Virginia, as the Private First Class Desmond T. Doss VA Clinic, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. 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. 3938.

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.

HENRY PARHAM VA CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4955) to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the "Henry Parham VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4955

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) Henry Parham was born in Emporia, Virginia, in November 1921.

(2) At age 21, Henry Parham was drafted into the Army and shipped out to England in 1943 with the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion in preparation for the D-Day invasions.

(3) The 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, a segregated Army unit, consisted of approximately 700 African-American soldiers with the mission of hoisting barrage balloons designed to entangle incoming German planes and prevent them from conducting strafing runs on ground troops.

(4) On June 6, 1944, Private First Class Henry Parham and his section of the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion landed at Omaha Beach. With the threat of enemy sniper and rifle fire ever present, PFC Parham's unit performed their duties, hoisting their barrage balloons 2,000 feet into the air over the beachhead in Normandy.

(5) For two months, Private First Class Henry Parham and the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion stood watch at Omaha Beach, keeping the pipeline of incoming supplies and Allied troops secure before returning to the United States in September 1944.

(6) After his service, Henry Parham moved to Wilkensburg, Pennsylvania, where he lived and worked as a heavy equipment operator until 1986. There, he met and married his wife, Ethel Parham, to whom he was married for more than 45 years.

(7) Henry Parham died on July 4, 2021, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the age of 99. He was survived by his wife, Ethel, both of

whom served for decades as volunteers at the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and local chapters of veterans service organizations.

(8) Henry Parham was the last surviving African-American combat veteran who took part in the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF HENRY PARHAM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Henry Parham Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the “Henry Parham 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 Henry Parham 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 H.R. 4955.

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 H.R. 4955, a bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the Henry Parham VA Clinic.

Henry Parham was born in 1921 in Greenville, Virginia, and was drafted into World War II in 1942.

In June of 1944, he took part in the D-day landing in France, serving in the 320th Very Low Altitude Anti-Aircraft Barrage Balloon Battalion. His unit was responsible for downing dozens of enemy aircraft.

After the war, he returned home. In his spare time, he kept serving his community by volunteering with his wife in their local VA. He was also the last surviving African American who took part in the D-day landings when he passed away in 2021.

Henry Parham is a great example of what it means to live a life of service, and I am proud to name this VA clinic after him to continue to tell the story of service and inspire future generations.

I thank the sponsor of the bill, Representative LEE, as well as the entire Pennsylvania delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, H.R. 4955, 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 H.R. 4955. This bill will des-

ignate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the Henry Parham VA Clinic. I thank my colleague, Representative LEE, for introducing this bill.

A member of a segregated Army unit, Private First Class Parham was likely the last surviving African-American D-day combat veteran. His heroic actions during perhaps the most famous military operation in American history are worthy of our continued gratitude. It is my pleasure to support this bill to do just that.

Mr. Parham was born in Emporia, Virginia, in November 1921 and was the son of a sharecropper. With limited educational opportunities in Emporia for African Americans, Mr. Parham moved to Richmond as a teenager to begin work as a porter for Trailways buses.

Following American entry into World War II, Mr. Parham was drafted into the Army at age 21. His unit, the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, had the mission of protecting ground forces by raising the hydrogen-filled balloons to disrupt and down enemy aircraft.

The 320th, an all-Black unit, initially trained in Tennessee before being sent to England in 1943 to prepare for the D-day invasion.

Landing on Omaha Beach hours after the first wave of American troops, Private First Class Parham and his unit encountered heavy German fire and casualties spread across the battlefield. Private First Class Parham survived the assault at Omaha Beach, and his service continued in the months to come.

Private First Class Parham and the 320th remained at Omaha Beach for 2 months following the June 6 invasion. This unit played a critical role in protecting supply lines and troop movements for follow-on operations in the region. The actions of Private First Class Parham and the 320th were crucial to the ultimate defeat of Nazi forces and Allied victory in Europe.

Private First Class Parham and the 320th returned to the United States in November of 1944. They were stationed in Hawaii. The unit began preparing for deployment to the Pacific as part of the planned invasion of Japan. They were still in Hawaii when atomic bombs were dropped on Japan in August 1945, ending the war.

After World War II ended, Mr. Parham and his wife, Ethel, settled in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for years in the region.

Following his retirement, both Mr. and Mrs. Parham became active volunteers at local VA hospitals and with The American Legion.

Mr. Parham, like so many members of the Greatest Generation, answered his Nation's call to serve to protect democracy at home and abroad.

During a time of racial division, Mr. Parham remained committed to a

country that often treated him as a second-class citizen. His actions with the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion on D-day and the months that followed are deserving of our continued gratitude and respect.

What is more, his work with fellow veterans as a volunteer in his post-military life demonstrated a lifelong commitment to our Nation's heroes. There is perhaps no better way to honor Mr. Parham than to ensure that this community facility bears his name and helps to educate the public about his service.

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

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE), the author of H.R. 4955 and my very good friend who serves on the Oversight and Accountability Committee and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill to designate the new Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the Henry Parham VA Clinic.

Private First Class Henry Parham, who at the time of his passing on July 4, 2021, was believed to be the last surviving Black combat veteran of D-day. He passed away at the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center at the age of 99, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy of courage, resilience, and service.

Drafted into the Army at just 21 years old, Mr. Parham joined the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, the only Black combat unit to land on D-day. Unable to swim on that day, Mr. Parham waded through neck-high water onto Omaha Beach, carrying his equipment under the chaos of enemy fire, praying for survival.

For 2 months, he and his battalion stood watch, aiding the flow of supplies and reinforcements to sustain Allied forces in turning the tide of the war. When asked about his service, Mr. Parham said simply: I did my duty. I did what I was supposed to do as an American.

That sense of responsibility defined him. After the war, Mr. Parham, like so many Black veterans, returned to a country that denied him the very freedoms he had fought to protect. He endured, devoting his life to service, spending decades volunteering at the Pittsburgh VA medical center and his local American Legion alongside his wife of 54 years, Ethel.

His dedication earned his recognition in his later year, including the French Legion of Honor.

In September 2023, the VA opened the Monroeville community-based outpatient clinic to improve veterans' access to primary and specialty outpatient services in our region.

Naming this facility after Henry Parham will serve as both a tribute to

his legacy and acknowledgment of the immense sacrifices made by veterans like him, those who fought for freedom abroad while enduring injustice at home. It is a testament to their courage and their unyielding belief in this Nation's promise, even when that promise was denied them.

In honoring Mr. Parham, let us continue to honor all veterans by ensuring they receive the highest quality of care and support they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman RESCHENTHALER for co-leading this effort with me, Senators FETTERMAN and CASEY for their leadership in the Senate, and the entire Pennsylvania delegation for their support, and I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 4955, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the Henry Parham VA Clinic, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage 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, H.R. 4955.

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.

DUANE E. DEWEY VA CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8667) to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Cadillac, Michigan, as the "Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8667

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF DUANE E. DEWEY VA CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1905 North Mitchell Street in Cadillac, Michigan, shall, after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the "Duane E. Dewey Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Duane E. Dewey 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 Duane E. Dewey 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 H.R. 8667.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 8667, a bill to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Cadillac, Michigan, as the Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic.

Duane Dewey was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1931 and established in the U.S. Marine Corps during the height of the Korean war. Serving as a machine gunner, he was wounded by a grenade that landed by his feet.

While being treated for his wounds, another enemy grenade landed near him. Without regard for his life, Corporal Dewey jumped on the grenade as it exploded. For his actions, he earned the Medal of Honor which was awarded to him by President Eisenhower.

After being medically discharged from active duty in 1952, he went on to start his own business and serve as chaplain at the AMVETS post named in his honor in Baldwin, Michigan.

I thank the sponsor of this bill, Representative MOOLENAAR, as well as the entire Michigan delegation for honoring their fellow Michigander with this tribute.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8667, 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 H.R. 8667, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Cadillac, Michigan, as the Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic introduced by Representative MOOLENAAR.

□ 1715

Risking his own life to protect his fellow marines, Corporal Dewey demonstrated incredible bravery while serving in the Korean war. His heroic service deserves to be memorialized in his home State of Michigan, and I am proud to support this bill to do just that.

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Mr. Dewey was a foundry worker at National Motor Casting at the beginning of the Korean war. Determined to support his Nation, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in 1951 for an indefinite enlistment.

Corporal Dewey completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina. He then underwent intensive combat training in Camp Pendleton, California.

At the completion of his training, Corporal Dewey deployed to Korea as a

member of weapons platoon Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in September 1951.

Corporal Dewey and the members of Company E participated in the United Nations summer-fall offensive of 1951 and in the second winter during the Korean war.

On April 16, 1952, Corporal Dewey and the roughly 80-member Company E found themselves under attack near Panmunjom, a village at the border between what is now North Korea and South Korea. Outnumbered by nearly 700 enemy forces, Corporal Dewey directed his machine gun squad to provide continuous suppressive fire.

As Corporal Dewey was being treated for wounds sustained by a grenade explosion, another grenade landed in their vicinity.

Despite his injuries, Corporal Dewey immediately alerted his machine gun squad and the hospital corpsmen treating his wounds that a grenade had just landed.

Corporal Dewey launched himself on top of the grenade to minimize impact to his fellow marines, sacrificing his own safety and saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. The grenade exploded, lifting him off the ground and leaving serious wounds throughout his body.

Corporal Dewey was evacuated to hospitals in Japan and then back to the United States for treatment and rehabilitation for his serious shrapnel and gunshot wounds. He was released from Active Duty on August 19, 1952.

For his heroic actions, Corporal Dewey was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1953. He was the first person to be awarded the Medal of Honor by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who famously told Dewey that he "must have a body of steel."

The uncommon valor Corporal Dewey displayed while serving in Korea is worth our continued recognition and appreciation. His service is a reminder of the sacrifices that Americans from all walks of life have made in defense of our freedoms. It is fitting to honor his legacy by naming the VA clinic in Cadillac, Michigan, for Corporal Dewey.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR), who is the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding time and for his kind words, and for the gentleman's kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan legislation to rename the Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Cadillac, Michigan, in honor of the late Corporal Duane Dewey, a Michigan native and a U.S. marine.

Corporal Dewey was extraordinarily brave in his service to our Nation. In April 1952, Corporal Dewey was serving