

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.

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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

as the leader of a machine gun squad in Korea when he came under fire. After hours of fighting, an enemy grenade fell at his feet. It exploded, and Dewey was injured.

Then, as he was being treated for his wounds, a second grenade was launched and landed near his position. Dewey alerted his fellow marines of the danger and rushed to smother the explosive. In this moment of bravery, he used his body to cover the explosive and saved the members of his squad.

Miraculously, Duane survived the blast, and he returned home to Michigan to recover from his injuries. Dewey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Dwight Eisenhower, who did joke that Duane has a body of steel.

Duane's Medal of Honor citation read, in part: "His indomitable courage, outstanding initiative, and valiant efforts on behalf of others in the face of almost certain death reflect the highest credit upon Corporal Dewey and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

Duane Dewey lived a humble life. He served his community as a school bus driver and ran an office machine repair shop. He remained involved in the veterans community and spoke to his fellow veterans frequently, offering them encouragement and sharing his story.

My legislation to rename this VA clinic in his home State is a fitting honor for Duane's service to our Nation and his lifelong support of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 8667 to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Cadillac, Michigan, as the Duane E. Dewey VA clinic, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, 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, H.R. 8667.

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.

#### LOUIS A. CONTER VA CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9124) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the "Louis A. Conter VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9124

*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) Louis "Lou" Anthony Conter was born on September 13, 1921, in Ojibwa, Wisconsin.

(2) Lt. Commander Lou Conter, the last remaining survivor of the attack on the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, was an American hero.

(3) On that fearful day, Petty Officer Conter helped evacuate shipmates who were blinded, wounded, or burned, even restraining some of his fellow shipmates from jumping overboard into the burning sea.

(4) In the days after the attack, he helped with recovering bodies and putting out fires. Lou Conter's heroic actions saved the lives of many of his shipmates on December 7, 1941.

(5) Following Pearl Harbor, Conter continued serving during WWII in New Guinea and in Europe as an enlisted naval aviation pilot assigned to VP-11, a "Black Cat" Squadron.

(6) Lou Conter would be awarded with the Distinguished Flying Cross for actively taking part in the rescue of 219 Australians trapped by Japanese troops in New Guinea.

(7) Later, in the Korean War, he served on the USS Bon Homme Richard as both an intelligence officer and a navy aviation pilot. Following his service in the Korean War, he served as a military intelligence advisor to three Presidents: Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

(8) During the 1950s, Lou Conter played a prominent role in the establishment and development of the Navy Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) training program.

(9) In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross, he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and became the first recipient of the USS Arizona Medal of Freedom.

(10) Louis Conter retired from the Navy in 1967 after serving 28 years as a Lieutenant Commander.

(11) Following his retirement, he generously gave his time to share his personal experiences at veterans' ceremonies and by giving lectures to students.

(12) Lieutenant Commander Conter's lectures were popular with generations of local students who were equally fascinated and enthralled by his first-person accounts.

(13) He is eminently deserving of recognition for his decades of service to a grateful nation.

(14) Lieutenant Commander Conter passed away in Grass Valley, California on April 1, 2024.

#### SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, AUBURN, CALIFORNIA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Louis A. Conter VA Clinic". Any reference to such clinic in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Louis A. Conter 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 have 5

legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 9124.

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. 9124, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, the Louis A. Conter VA Clinic.

Louis Conter was born in Wisconsin in 1921. He enlisted in the Navy in 1939 and was assigned to the infamous USS Arizona.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Louis was standing watch on the deck of the Arizona when it came under attack by Japanese bombers.

As the infamous explosion that ignited the ship's magazine happened, Louis was thrown to the ground. As the ship began to sink, he aided the wounded. In the following days, Louis helped put the fires out and recover the bodies from the wreckage.

Following the attack, as the war kicked into high gear, Louis was selected for pilot training. He deployed to the Pacific theater and was shot down twice. Again, defying all odds, he survived and reached the rank of lieutenant, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Louis was reactivated during the Korean war in the 1950s, eventually retiring from the Navy in 1967 at the rank of lieutenant commander. After his service, he lived out the rest of his life as a real estate developer and author.

Louis Conter was the last known survivor of the USS Arizona before passing away on April 1, 2024.

I am proud to name the VA clinic after him to memorialize his historic story of service. I thank the sponsor of this bill, Representative KILEY, as well as the entire California delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 9124, 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. 9124, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the Louis A. Conter VA Clinic, which was introduced by Representative KILEY of California.

Lieutenant Commander Louis A. Conter, the last remaining survivor of the attack on the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, embodied the highest ideals of military service and American valor. I am proud to support this bill to honor his service.

During the fateful attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, he helped evacuate shipmates who were blinded, wounded, and burned. In the days following the attack, he helped recover bodies and put out smoldering fires. Lou Conter's heroic actions saved the lives of many of his shipmates.