

charged toward the enemy's position, and silenced two bunkers. He then courageously advanced toward a third bunker, which he also silenced, clearing a route for his comrades. Shortly thereafter, gunfire emerged from a fourth, unseen bunker, and in order to protect his fellow soldiers, Cpl. Crescenz advanced on the position, firing with his machine gun. He was mortally wounded when he was just 5 meters away from the camouflaged bunker. His selfless actions allowed his company to maneuver freely to complete its mission, ultimately defeating the enemy.

President Nixon posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Cpl. Crescenz in April, 1970 for his gallantry and intrepidity in action. Now, 46 years after his heroic stand, we again humbly recognize the sacrifice of Cpl. Crescenz, along with the sacrifice of all those who paid the ultimate price in Vietnam and in all wars in defense of our nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 229.

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.

□ 1645

LANE A. EVANS VA COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2921) to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2921

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

SECTION 1. LANE A. EVANS VA COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2921.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2921, which would name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic at 310 Home Boulevard, Galesburg, Illinois, as the Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

We are here today to honor the life and service of the late Congressman Lane Evans by naming the new VA community-based outpatient clinic in Illinois after him. Congressman Evans represented Illinois' 17th District for more than 20 years, was a champion of veterans' issues throughout his time in Congress, and served as the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for a decade.

Congressman Evans passed away this year, at the age of 63, following a long battle with Parkinson's disease. One way to honor Congressman Evans is to recognize his legacy of service to veterans in the community. It is in that thought that we believe naming this facility after him is a fitting tribute.

It is my pleasure to support S. 2921, and I am grateful for the leadership and support of Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, Senator DURBIN, and the entire Illinois delegation. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great public servant by supporting this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of bipartisan legislation that I introduced last month to name the Galesburg VA community-based outpatient clinic in honor of former Congressman Lane Evans, who passed away just last month. Lane served the 17th Congressional District of Illinois, the district I now have the honor and privilege of representing. He served it with honor, humility, and hard work for more than two decades.

A Marine Corps veteran himself, Lane was a steadfast champion for our men and women in uniform. A veteran of the Vietnam war era, he served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee from his arrival in Washington to his position as the committee's ranking member, a post he held for more than 10 years.

Lane Evans' record on behalf of veterans earned him the praise and respect from veterans service organizations and his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of former Congressman Lane Evans by designating the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Galesburg, Illinois, as the Lane A. Evans Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

I first got to know Lane when I was a young newspaper reporter covering our region. Lane was always warm, accessible, and friendly to me. I interviewed him many times about a number of different topics.

While he was young, with his trademark boyish haircut, his quiet courage and drive made him seem much older than his age. Through my interactions with him over the years and with those who worked with him and those who he touched through his service, I learned a lot about the man and what he stood for.

A proud native of Rock Island, the son of a firefighter and a nurse, and an Alleman High School and Augustana College graduate, Lane truly represented everything that is right about public service. He will be sorely missed by all those he touched, and the legacy of service that he provided will never be forgotten.

The dedication of a veterans' facility in the heart of the district he represented is a fitting tribute and acknowledgment of his career-long fight to ensure that all veterans get the care and the benefits that they have earned and deserve.

I would like to thank the entire Illinois delegation and the many Members who served with Lane for supporting this effort. In particular, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD of the Veterans' Affairs Committee here in the House and their counterparts in the Senate, Chairman SANDERS and Ranking Member BURR, for bringing this forward. I would also like to thank Senators KIRK and DURBIN from Illinois for shepherding this bill through the Senate.

By renaming this VA clinic, we can ensure that Lane Evans' strong legacy of service to our men and women in uniform lives on in a facility that serves them today. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this bipartisan legislation in honor of the memory of Lane Evans.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my good friend, CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Thank you, Dr. ROE, for yielding and also for helping bring this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2921, which would designate the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Galesburg, Illinois, as the Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

As a cosponsor of the House version of the bill, I appreciate the work that both the House and Senate VA Committees have done and the leadership of both Chambers to bring this bill to the floor. I especially want to thank Senator DURBIN for authorizing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, for 24 years, Lane Evans served with distinction as the Representative of Illinois' 17th Congressional District. We mourn his tragic

passing last month at the age of 63. Even as he suffered from Parkinson's disease, Mr. Speaker, Lane Evans heroically and tenaciously fought for veterans in the years leading up to his retirement in 2007.

When Congressman Evans retired, the Vietnam Veterans of America said:

Lane's compassion for his fellow veterans and his commitment to do right by them has come right from the heart.

As ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee during my tenure as chairman of the committee, I saw firsthand how he turned his knowledge, compassion, and expertise—his heart—into effective advocacy and how he worked to make a tangible difference in the lives of veterans and their families around the country.

Mr. Speaker, during our tenure as chair and ranking member, we were able to craft and shepherd into law numerous bills that expanded care and service for our Nation's veterans, including expansion of the GI Bill and assistance to homeless veterans.

Lane's commitment to ensuring that men and women who wore the uniform had timely access to world class medical treatment that they have earned was, in a word, extraordinary.

Of particular interest to Lane, a Vietnam veteran himself, was health care for veterans exposed to agent orange during their service in Vietnam. Throughout the 1980s, it was an honor to work side by side with Lane and others, like Congressman Tom Daschle, in an effort to convince a highly reluctant Department of Veterans Affairs and Pentagon that agent orange severely injured many who served in Vietnam.

In 1991, Lane introduced the Veterans' Compensation Amendments of 1991, which became part of the Agent Orange Act, to provide presumptive service-connected disability assistance to veterans with diseases linked to agent orange; thus the gentleman from Illinois helped ensure that veterans received the care and the compensation they deserved, while not being saddled with the onerous burden of proof for injuries due to exposure to a herbicide that was laced with dioxin.

It is, therefore, highly fitting to name a community-based outpatient clinic after a remarkable lawmaker who fought hard for veterans, health care, and compensation during his time in Congress. I urge my colleagues to join me and all the leadership here on the floor in supporting S. 2921 to honor the legacy of Congressman Evans as a remarkable veterans' advocate.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2921 in honoring the life of our former friend and colleague, Lane Evans, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support S. 2921.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2921.

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.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM LATHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. 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 the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we are here today under a Special Order because at this time of year—at the end of a session—we have Members that are retiring, Members that deserve recognition, and Members that other Members of the House would like to talk about for a few minutes.

Today, we have one of the best that, unfortunately, is retiring at the end of this year. He is a gentleman that I have known since I came to Congress and have become good friends with. We have had many entertaining times.

I am sorry to say that the thing that people in Washington are going to miss the most, probably, is a rendition of Roy Orbison duets by Mr. LATHAM and myself. I don't know how, but we certainly had fun with those at various events.

Before I say anything else, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

□ 1700

Mr. LOEBSACK. I thank the gentleman from Idaho, Mr. SIMPSON. I didn't know that you did "Oh, Pretty Woman" and all these other songs. I can't wait, TOM, to see you back in Iowa.

Madam Speaker, it is really an honor for me to be up here tonight to speak for and about TOM LATHAM. When I got elected in 2006, TOM had been here for some time, not a long period of time, but for 12 years. I knew about TOM from what I had read. I didn't know him personally. I was one of those folks who came to Congress with no one expecting me to get here, so I didn't know that many folks in this body certainly before I got elected.

When I got elected, one of the first things I did was try to find out as much as I could about TOM LATHAM and meet with TOM LATHAM and work with him

on a number of issues because I knew he had a reputation for working across the aisle. I also knew that he was very good friends at the time with Mr. BOEHNER, who subsequently became Speaker of the House, so I knew it was probably in my interest to get to know TOM LATHAM if I wanted to get things done for Iowa, even though Speaker PELOSI took over when I came.

My job since I have been here, I believe, has been to work with both sides of the aisle, and TOM LATHAM is a model, as far as I am concerned, for doing exactly that.

When I first came, you know, we had a lot of tough issues to deal with here in the U.S. Congress, and one of the things that happened very early on when I first got elected was the issue of the National Guard came up, and I was on Armed Services. A lot of those Guard folks were being deployed multiple times, and it was very, very difficult for their families.

A number of us recognized that what we needed to do was build facilities, more facilities, upgrade facilities, get rid of those old National Guard armories and replace them with readiness centers that would be there to train and equip our troops in the event that we had to send them overseas on a mission, which we did many, many times, and Iowans proudly have served over the years, over these many years, in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places.

We needed to construct those facilities also for their families, for their spouses, and for their children. So on the Armed Services Committee I did what I could in terms of authorization to make sure that the funds were there, and on the Appropriations Committee, of course, what TOM LATHAM did was make sure that we had the funding to make sure that we built those facilities as well. So we were able to work on that issue together.

Then when the floods, the great flood of 2008 hit across Iowa, but mainly across the eastern half of Iowa—and it would include a lot of TOM LATHAM's district—a lot of it included my district, about half the damage was in my district alone. But I worked with TOM, I worked with STEVE KING, BRUCE BRALEY, and Leonard Boswell. We really did a great job working on a bipartisan basis to make sure that what we needed in Iowa we got. So we worked very hard on that.

Then also on veterans issues. When we heard about the scandal in Phoenix, the first thing I did was I contacted TOM LATHAM and said, "Hey, we need to go to Des Moines together if that is okay with you. I know it is your congressional district—it is not mine—but let's go to Des Moines together and talk to the folks there about the Des Moines facility."

I have been to the VA facility in Iowa City in my district many, many times, but I wanted to go to Des Moines, and I wanted to go with TOM, and I knew that he would work together with me on that to make sure that everything