

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2693

To designate the arboretum at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, as the “Phyllis E. Galanti Arboretum”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2015

Mr. BRAT (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To designate the arboretum at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, as the “Phyllis E. Galanti Arboretum”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Phyllis Eason Galanti, a tireless advocate
6 for the rights of prisoners of war from the United
7 States during the Vietnam War and a beloved mem-

1 ber of the Richmond, Virginia, community, died on
2 April 23, 2014.

3 (2) Ms. Eason graduated from the College of
4 William and Mary in 1963 and shortly afterward
5 was married to Paul Edward Galanti, a pilot with
6 the United States Navy, at the Chapel of the Centu-
7 rion in Fort Monroe, Virginia.

8 (3) In June 1966, when Mr. Galanti was shot
9 down over North Vietnam, captured, and held pris-
10 oner, Phyllis E. Galanti became active in the Na-
11 tional League of Families of American Prisoners
12 and Missing in Southeast Asia, soon becoming chair
13 of the organization.

14 (4) Mrs. Galanti spearheaded the Let's Bring
15 Paul Galanti Home project as part of the national
16 Write Hanoi campaign—

17 (A) to raise awareness;

18 (B) to secure the return of more than 600
19 soldiers from the United States who were miss-
20 ing in action or held as prisoners of war in
21 Vietnam; and

22 (C) to ensure that prisoners of war were
23 treated in accordance with the Geneva Conven-
24 tions.

1 (5) The efforts of Mrs. Galanti under the Let's
2 Bring Paul Galanti Home project, the most success-
3 ful of many such campaigns, resulted in more than
4 1,000,000 letters that were personally delivered to
5 the North Vietnamese embassy in Stockholm, Swe-
6 den, in 1971.

7 (6) Mrs. Galanti became known as “Fearless
8 Phyllis”, traveling to Versailles, France, seeking an
9 audience with North Vietnamese leaders, and giving
10 hundreds of presentations to policy leaders in the
11 United States, including President Richard Nixon,
12 National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, and Vir-
13 ginia Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., who said of her
14 in 1975, “One dedicated woman and a handful of
15 others had more influence on the communist world
16 than legions of armies and diplomats.”.

17 (7) After more than seven years apart, Mrs.
18 Galanti was reunited with her husband Paul Galanti
19 at the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia, on
20 February 15, 1973.

21 (8) Mrs. Galanti spent decades confronting the
22 issue of prisoners and hostages from the United
23 States, not only in Vietnam but also in the Soviet
24 Union and Iran.

1 (9) Mrs. Galanti actively supported the Virginia
 2 Home, Theatre IV, and the Virginia Repertory The-
 3 atre, visited schools, and continued to meet with law-
 4 makers until she died on April 23, 2014, at age 73,
 5 from complications with leukemia.

6 (10) The work of Mrs. Galanti earned her the
 7 American Legion Service Medal, and the Paul and
 8 Phyllis Galanti Education Center at the Virginia
 9 War Memorial was named in honor of her and her
 10 husband.

11 (11) The leadership at the Hunter Holmes
 12 McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia,
 13 including Director John Brandecker, seeks to recog-
 14 nize Mrs. Galanti by naming the arboretum at Hun-
 15 ter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in her
 16 honor.

17 (12) It is a fitting tribute that Congress name
 18 the arboretum after such an outstanding advocate
 19 for members of the Armed Forces of the United
 20 States and veterans.

21 **SEC. 2. PHYLLIS E. GALANTI ARBORETUM AT HUNTER**
 22 **HOLMES MCGUIRE VA MEDICAL CENTER IN**
 23 **RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.**

24 (a) DESIGNATION.—The arboretum at the Hunter
 25 Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Vir-

1 ginia, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act
2 be known and designated as the “Phyllis E. Galanti Arbo-
3 retum”.

4 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
5 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
6 States to the arboretum referred to in subsection (a) shall
7 be considered to be a reference to the Phyllis E. Galanti
8 Arboretum.

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