

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2693

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Phyllis Eason Galanti, a tireless advocate  
4 for the rights of prisoners of war from the United  
5 States during the Vietnam War and a beloved mem-  
6 ber of the Richmond, Virginia, community, died on  
7 April 23, 2014.

8 (2) Ms. Eason graduated from the College of  
9 William and Mary in 1963 and shortly afterward  
10 was married to Paul Edward Galanti, a pilot with  
11 the United States Navy, at the Chapel of the Centu-  
12 rion in Fort Monroe, Virginia.

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

19 (4) Mrs. Galanti spearheaded the Let's Bring  
20 Paul Galanti Home project as part of the national  
21 Write Hanoi campaign—

22 (A) to raise awareness;

23 (B) to secure the return of more than 600  
24 soldiers from the United States who were miss-  
25 ing in action or held as prisoners of war in  
26 Vietnam; and

1 (C) to ensure that prisoners of war were  
2 treated in accordance with the Geneva Conven-  
3 tions.

4 (5) The efforts of Mrs. Galanti under the Let's  
5 Bring Paul Galanti Home project, the most success-  
6 ful of many such campaigns, resulted in more than  
7 1,000,000 letters that were personally delivered to  
8 the North Vietnamese embassy in Stockholm, Swe-  
9 den, in 1971.

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

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

24 (8) Mrs. Galanti spent decades confronting the  
25 issue of prisoners and hostages from the United

1 States, not only in Vietnam but also in the Soviet  
2 Union and Iran.

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

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 2. PHYLLIS E. GALANTI ARBORETUM AT HUNTER**  
2 **HOLMES MCGUIRE VA MEDICAL CENTER IN**  
3 **RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.**

4 (a) DESIGNATION.—The arboretum at the Hunter  
5 Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Vir-  
6 ginia, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act  
7 be known and designated as the “Phyllis E. Galanti Arbo-  
8 retum”.

9 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-  
10 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United  
11 States to the arboretum referred to in subsection (a) shall  
12 be considered to be a reference to the Phyllis E. Galanti  
13 Arboretum.

Passed the House of Representatives December 8,  
2015.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*