

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 609

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2017

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

AN ACT

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs health care center in Center Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the “Abie Abraham VA Clinic”.

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 finds the following:

3 (1) Abie Abraham of Lyndora, Pennsylvania,
4 was stationed during World War II with the 18th
5 Infantry in New York; 3 years with the 14th Infan-
6 try in Panama; 15th Infantry, unassigned in China,
7 while the U.S.S. Panay was sunk; 30th Infantry,
8 Presidio, San Francisco; and the 31st Infantry, Ma-
9 nila, Philippines, for 9 years.

10 (2) During World War II, Abraham fought, was
11 captured, endured the Bataan Death March and as
12 a prisoner of war for 3½ years, was beaten, stabbed,
13 shot, survived malaria and starvation to be rescued
14 by the 6th Rangers.

15 (3) Abraham stayed behind at the request of
16 General Douglas MacArthur for 2½ more years
17 disinterring the bodies of his fallen comrades from
18 the Bataan Death March and the prison camps,
19 helping to identify their bodies and see that they
20 were properly laid to rest.

21 (4) After his promotion in 1945, Abraham
22 came back to the United States where he served as
23 a recruiter and then also served 2 years in Germany
24 until his retirement with 30 years of service as a
25 Master Sergeant.

1 (5) Abraham received numerous medals for his
2 service, including the Purple Heart, and had several
3 documentaries on the Discovery Channel and His-
4 tory Channel.

5 (6) Abraham wrote the books “Ghost of Bataan
6 Speaks” in 1971 and “Oh, God, Where Are You” in
7 1977 to help the public better understand what our
8 brave men endured at the hands of the Imperial
9 Japanese Army as prisoners of war.

10 (7) Abraham was a life member of the Veterans
11 of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Purple
12 Heart Combat/Infantry Organization, the American
13 Ex-POWs, the Disabled American Veterans, and the
14 American Defenders of Bataan.

15 (8) Abraham was a volunteer at Veterans Af-
16 fairs Butler Healthcare for 23 years from 1988 to
17 2011 and had 36,851 service hours caring for our
18 veterans.

19 **SEC. 2. ABIE ABRAHAM VA CLINIC.**

20 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Af-
21 fairs health care center in Center Township, Butler Coun-
22 ty, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the enactment of
23 this Act be known and designated as the “Abie Abraham
24 VA Clinic”.

1 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
2 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
3 States to the health care center referred to in subsection
4 (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Abie Abra-
5 ham VA Clinic”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 13,
2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.