

for a period of 3 years after the veteran's death, or until the spouse remarries.

This simply allows a Gold Star spouse a bit more time after a loved one's death to settle any business affairs of the deceased spouse it had.

It is the right thing to do to ease the burden that comes with the loss of a spouse in expression of our gratitude for their family's service.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Ohio's willingness to point this out, I strongly support this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT). This is his piece of legislation. I appreciate him being here on the floor today.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROE and Ranking Member WALZ for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5044, the Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act.

This bill ensures that the surviving spouses of Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses are able to retain the Service Disabled Veteran Owned status of their small business for 3 years, as was mentioned, after the passing of the veteran spouse.

This policy is already codified in title 38 of the United States Code. However, there is a lack of parity between title 38 and the Small Business Act.

I have heard from several small businesses about this issue, including one in my district, that this discrepancy creates legal uncertainty and confusion in the application of this important policy. What we are trying to do is clear it up.

To guarantee clarity and certainty for the administration of these Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses, the Small Business Act must conform with the policy prescribed in title 38.

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H.R. 5044 dispels any legal uncertainty, ensuring that these important policy changes to the law are sustained. Most importantly, this bill provides peace of mind for surviving spouses of veteran business owners. And one of the main things a veteran is always looking out for is making sure that his or her spouse is taken care of after they are gone. So this will not only give the surviving spouse peace of mind, but the veteran himself or herself peace of mind ahead of time.

Again, I thank the chairman and the ranking member and members of the House Veterans Affairs' Committee for their leadership in clearing this up and, again, giving peace of mind to veterans and their spouses all over America. I would urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5044.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation. I am grateful for the gentleman bringing it up. I encourage its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 5044, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5044, the Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act.

H.R. 5044 amends title 38, of the United States Code to clarify the treatment of certain surviving spouses under the contracting goals and preferences of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Nearly 1 in 10 small businesses are owned by veterans and among these veteran-owned businesses, they collectively have generated over \$1 trillion in sales.

When the owner of a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business passes away, his or her spouse is permitted to inherit the business and retain priority status to obtain VA contracts in the federal procurement marketplace.

In obtaining goods and services, the VA provides a special preference to firms owned and controlled by veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Surviving spouses of veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 100 percent are eligible to retain this preferential contracting status for up to 10 years after the veteran's death.

Passing H.R. 5044 would authorize similar treatment for surviving spouses of veterans whose service-connected disabilities are rated less than 100 percent and it would enable these spouses to retain priority status for obtaining contracts for up to three years.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5044 protects widows and widowers from any major disruptions to their businesses during one of the most difficult times in their lives, the passing of a loved one who bravely served our country.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans bravely put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms and to keep our nation safe. For those who end up making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation, it is crucial that we honor their sacrifice any way we can by honoring the widows and widowers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5540 to show their gratitude for the sacrifices made by our service men and women, and to maintain the livelihood of their spouses.

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, H.R. 5044.

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.

#### REDESIGNATING CERTAIN CLINICS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS LOCATED IN MONTANA

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1282) to redesignate certain clinics of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Montana.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1282

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

#### SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINICS IN MONTANA.

(a) DAVID J. THATCHER VA CLINIC.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2687 Palmer Street in Missoula, Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "David J. Thatcher VA Clinic".

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the David J. Thatcher VA Clinic.

(b) DR. JOSEPH MEDICINE CROW VA CLINIC.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1775 Spring Creek Lane in Billings, Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow VA Clinic".

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow VA Clinic.

(3) PUBLIC DISPLAY OF NAME.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any local public display of the name of the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) carried out by the United States or through the use of Federal funds shall include the English name, Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, and the Crow name, Dakaak Baako, of Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow.

(B) LOCAL DISPLAY.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a local public display of the name of the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) includes a display inside the clinic, on the campus of the clinic, and in the community surrounding the clinic, such as signs directing individuals to the clinic.

(c) BENJAMIN CHARLES STEELE VA CLINIC.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1766 Majestic Lane in Billings, Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Benjamin Charles Steele VA Clinic".

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the Benjamin Charles Steele VA Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) 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 to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on S. 1282.

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. 1282, to designate certain clinics

in the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Montana. This bill is sponsored by Senator DAINES from Montana, and I am grateful to him for introducing this legislation in honor of three American heroes.

The first is Sergeant David J. Thatcher, who was born in Bridger, Montana, and joined the U.S. Army in 1940. Following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Sergeant Thatcher volunteered for a secret mission, the Doolittle Raid. He was the engineer and tail gunner for crew number 7, the Ruptured Duck.

The crew successfully carried out the mission and attempted to fly to China. The aircraft ran out of fuel and was forced to make an emergency landing on a beach. The violent landing caused serious injury to all crew members besides Sergeant Thatcher. Thankfully, he was able to drag his men from the wreckage and lead them to safety after avoiding several Japanese patrols.

For his bravery in saving the lives of his crew, Thatcher was awarded the Silver Star. His other decorations included the Distinguished Flying Cross; Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters; and the Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Corps Medal, Class A, First Grade.

S. 1282, would further honor him by naming the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs, located at 2687 Palmer Street in Missoula, Montana, the David J. Thatcher Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic. I can think of no better name after reading that.

The second American hero who would be honored by this bill is Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, who was born on the Crow Indian Reservation near Lodge Grass, Montana. Dr. Medicine Crow went on to get his bachelor's degree from Linfield College and master's degree in anthropology from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles in 1939. He was the first member of the Crow Tribe to obtain a master's degree.

After the war broke out, Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow joined the Army and became a scout in the 103rd Infantry Division. While at war, he completed all four tasks required to become a war chief: touching an enemy without killing him, taking an enemy's weapon, leading a successful war party, and stealing an enemy's horse. He is the last member of the Crow Tribe to become a war chief.

After serving in the Army, Dr. Medicine Crow returned to the Crow Agency and was appointed Tribal historian and anthropologist. He was appointed the keeper of memories of his Tribe and published many historical books. Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow continued to write and lecture at universities and public institutions until his passing at the young age of 102.

I am truly honored to rename the VA clinic located 1775 Spring Creek Lane in Billings, Montana, the Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

The final hero to be recognized by this bill is Ben Steele. Mr. Steele was

born in Billings, Montana, and graduated from Billings Senior High School.

In 1941, Mr. Steele enlisted in the Army Air Corps, where he was assigned to the 7th Material Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group. His group was assigned to the Philippine Islands, and during the ensuing Japanese invasion, Mr. Steele fought to defend his base on Bataan. After his capture, Mr. Steele was forced to endure the horrendous Bataan Death March and was a Japanese prisoner of war for 3½ years.

After the war, Mr. Steele was a true renaissance man, consulting for the Department of Defense, serving as the crafts director of the Military District of Washington, D.C., chairing the art department of Eastern Montana College, and giving workshops, demonstrations, and lectures at museums, schools, and civic centers.

As a survivor of the Bataan Death March, Mr. Steele was devoted to his Creator, his family, his country, and his art. In his memory, I am privileged to support this bill to rename the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1766 Majestic Lane in Billings, Montana, the Benjamin Charles Steele Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

This legislation satisfies all of the committee's naming criteria, is co-sponsored by the entire Montana congressional delegation, and is supported by many VSOs. I am proud to support it as well, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in strong support of S. 1282, which names three veterans clinics in Montana.

Again, I will reiterate what I said earlier, that sometimes I hear people disparagingly talk about how we are not doing anything in Congress except naming VA clinics and post offices. That is right. We are naming three VA clinics for three American heroes again. You just heard Chairman ROE give the stories of David Thatcher, Ben Steele, and Dakaak Baako and what they did for this Nation.

These are movie scripts in any other world, except this is real life, real American heroes who did exactly what was asked of them and then, in each one of these cases, returned back home to build this Nation.

I oftentimes, and I will continue to say it, when you drive by a VA clinic and there is a name on it, google it, because you will be amazed at what your fellow citizens can do.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on this piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as I close, I can't encourage my Members enough to vote for this.

My history professor in college was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He wrote a book, "Apocalypse Undone: My Survival of Japanese Imprisonment

During World War II," and told me he had never slept through the night until he wrote that book.

I wonder if these two gentlemen, Mr. Steele and my professor, knew each other. I hope they did. They both lived to have successful lives, and this truly was and is the Greatest Generation. There is no question about what these men did when they returned home.

So once again, I encourage everyone to support this, and 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. 1282.

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.

#### HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS VA MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3663) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia, as the Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3663

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

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS VA MEDICAL CENTER IN HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Hershel 'Woody' Williams VA Medical Center".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) 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 to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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 H.R. 3663, to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans