

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

Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia, as the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center.

This bill is sponsored by my friend and colleague EVAN JENKINS, and I am grateful to him for introducing this legislation in honor of an American hero.

Hershel “Woody” Williams enlisted in the Marine Corps on May 26, 1943, in Charleston, West Virginia. Following his training, Corporal Williams was deployed to participate in the invasion of Iwo Jima. On February 23, 1945, a system of enemy pill boxes pinned down his unit.

With a 70-pound flamethrower and covering fire from only four riflemen, Corporal Williams braved the viscous barrage and charged forward alone. He fought 4 hours, successfully destroying several enemy strongholds and saving the lives of countless marines.

Corporal Williams fought the entirety of the 5-week battle for the island despite suffering a wound for which he was awarded a Purple Heart. For his actions and his heroism in the face of brutal combat, President Truman awarded Corporal Williams a Medal of Honor on October 5, 1945.

After 20 years of service, he retired from the Marine Corps Reserve and worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Now he serves on the Governor’s West Virginia Military Advisory Board and runs the Hershel “Woody” Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, a not-for-profit that erects monuments to honor Gold Star families and provides scholarships to eligible Gold Star children.

Today, Corporal Williams is the only surviving marine to have received the Medal of Honor during the Second World War, and I am privileged to support H.R. 3663 in his honor.

This legislation satisfies all of the committee’s naming criteria and is sponsored by the entire West Virginia congressional delegation, and is supported by many VSOs.

As an aside, Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending an event in Kingsport, Tennessee, where Corporal Williams was the sponsor for our memorial that is there in Kingsport, Tennessee.

I want to thank my West Virginia colleagues for bringing this up. I thank Congressman EVAN JENKINS for introducing this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

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

I, too, rise in support of designating the VA medical center in Huntington, West Virginia, the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center.

You are going to hear more detail from the gentleman from West Virginia, but it is once again proving the point that these are not exercises in futility. This is how America honors and remembers. Our children need to know who these people were when their name shows up on the VA medical center.

On this one, I think the gentleman from West Virginia knows this, but we were discussing this over here, all of us in Minnesota got to know who he was last February when the world was watching. Some of us remember the moment when people said: “Who is that marine who walked out and tossed the coin at the Super Bowl?” It was this gentleman.

I remember the sense of pride and the sense of awe, and we kind of got things into perspective because they told a little background on his story: that we were going to watch a game, and this gentleman was out there fighting for the freedoms to allow that game to happen.

It was a wonderful moment. I am certainly proud and grateful to encourage people to cast a “yes” vote on this piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS).

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

Today, we are voting on H.R. 3663, which would rename the Huntington VA Medical Center in honor of Corporal Hershel “Woody” Williams.

I first met Woody more than 20 years ago when I was elected to the State legislature. Over the more than two decades I have known him, Woody has never stopped fighting for his fellow veterans. I am honored to call him a constituent and a friend.

At 94 years young, Woody is still a vocal advocate for our veterans and their families. Whether it be at countless legislative committee hearings, veterans recognition and appreciation events, or Veterans Day and Memorial Day commemorations, Woody is there fighting for our veterans.

Woody is an unbelievably brave and kind man. Not only did he demonstrate extraordinary heroism at Iwo Jima, but he has dedicated his life to serving veterans and our community. Each year our local Boy Scouts—our local Scout council—gets all newly elected Eagle Scouts together and Woody is invited to come and spend time with the boys to share a few thoughts.

When my two sons became Eagles, Woody shook their hands. He looked them in the eye and challenged them to conduct their life according to the Scout oath and motto, to do their duty to God and country, which is exactly how he has lived his life.

Throughout West Virginia and the Nation, Woody is best known for his brave efforts in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

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Corporal Williams was a demolition sergeant serving with the 21st Marines, 3rd Marine Division when American troops landed on Iwo Jima.

I would like to read now from Corporal Williams’ Medal of Honor citation: “Quick to volunteer his services

when our tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through the network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines, and black volcanic sands, Corporal Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine gun fire from the unyielding positions.

“Covered only by four riflemen, he fought desperately for 4 hours under terrific enemy small arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flamethrowers, struggling back frequently to the rear of hostile encampments to wipe out one position after another.

“Corporal Williams’ aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty throughout this fiercely contested action sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.”

Woody Williams believed in something greater than himself. His country asked, and he answered. Corporal Williams was there, in that place, at that time, when his country needed him the most.

Following his military service, Woody continued to serve our Nation as a veterans service representative for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also founded the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation to recognize the sacrifices of our Nation’s Gold Star families.

Woody is an example of the best that West Virginia and our Nation have to offer, and he is, quite simply, an American hero. Renaming the Huntington VA Medical Center to honor his service would be a fitting tribute for all he has done for our veterans and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), who is my good friend.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3663, which would name the VA medical center in Huntington, West Virginia, after a true American hero and my personal friend, Hershel “Woody” Williams.

Woody is recognized as the last living Medal of Honor recipient from the notoriously horrific Battle of Iwo Jima; but in West Virginia, Woody is known far more for his work on behalf of veterans.

Upon his retirement from the Marines, Woody served 33 years as a counselor with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He served as the commandant of the veterans nursing home in Barboursville, West Virginia, for years, providing care to aging veterans. Then, in 2012, he helped start a Medal of Honor foundation dedicated to honoring Gold Star families and their fallen loved ones.

The foundation has erected monuments in 36 States, like Tennessee, and offers scholarships to children in Gold Star families. Woody frequently travels to Washington to participate in special ceremonies at Arlington National

Cemetery in honor of our fallen heroes. Earlier this year, as my colleague had mentioned, he received national recognition for his service to our country when he was asked to perform the coin toss for the Super Bowl.

It is often said that the character of a person isn't measured by their actions while in the limelight, but rather by the work they do when they are not being in the light, when no one is looking. Woody's life is a manifestation of working behind the scenes. He has been unwavering in his support for our veterans, and Congress has an opportunity to offer him our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 3663, and I thank my colleague, EVAN JENKINS, for this introduction of the bill and his support for Woody Williams.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE), who is my good friend.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, as well as legislation I introduced along with the Montana Senate delegation to honor three Montana veterans by renaming three Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in their honor. These three veterans have shown the true spirit and dedication all Montanans and Americans should aspire to.

Ben Steele from Roundup, Montana, joined the Army Air Corps and was stationed at Clark Field in the Philippines in 1941 when he was 24. Following the Japanese invasion, Ben fought on Bataan and survived the Bataan Death March. He was held prisoner for 3½ years, and sketched with charcoal scenes on concrete and secret scraps of paper. Some of his work is still on display in the MacArthur Museum in Norfolk. After the war, he continued his passion for art and taught at MSU-Billings for 33 years.

Mr. Steele passed away in September of 2016 at the age of 98. The only thing he liked more than art was fishing. I am proud that the Billings Community Based Specialty Clinic will be renamed in honor of Benjamin Charles Steele.

David Thatcher enlisted in the Army Air Corps in December of 1940. Following the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Thatcher volunteered for a secret mission joining Jimmy Doolittle in a bombing mission over Tokyo. Serving as a B-25 tail gunner on the Ruptured Duck, Thatcher saved the lives of his crew when the plane crashed into the sea trying to make landfall in China after the raid. For his actions, Thatcher was awarded the Silver Star.

The Ruptured Duck was piloted by Lieutenant Ted Lawson, who wrote "Thirty Seconds over Tokyo." Robert Walker played Thatcher in the movie.

Thatcher flew in the African and European theaters for the rest of the war. Thatcher worked for the Postal Service for 30 years following his Army career and was an avid outdoorsman. He passed away in June, 2016, at the age of

94. The community-based outpatient clinic in Missoula will be designated in his honor.

The community-based outpatient clinic on Spring Creek Lane in Billings will be designated in honor of Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow. Dr. Medicine Crow was born in the Crow Indian Reservation in 1913 and was the first member of the tribe to receive a master's degree, graduating from the University of Southern California in 1939.

After working in the naval shipyard in Bremerton, Medicine Crow joined the Army in 1943 and served as a scout in the 103rd Infantry Division in Europe. He became the last surviving war chief of the Crow Nation, having successfully led a war party, stolen horses from the Nazi SS, disarming an enemy and capturing him without killing him. For his service in World War II, he received the Bronze Star and the French Legion of Honor.

After the war, he worked for the Crow Agency and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as the Little Big Horn College. He has served on numerous boards and educational commissions. He even addressed the United Nations. He passed away in April of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, while their friends and families know their great deeds, I am honored to share this story with you and the rest of the country.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, once again, Mr. Speaker, I would just remind everyone here that these are not just naming bills. This is our history; it is important. The four stories told today are an amazing testament to what bill we can do as a people, and these individuals deserve this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes." What I say to Woody is: thank you, thank you, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARSHALL). 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. 3663.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Gabrielle Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

HOMELESS VETERANS' RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4451) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4451

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.

(a) FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.—Section 2021(e)(1)(F) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "2018" and inserting "2022".

(b) FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 2021A(f)(1) of such title is amended by striking "2018" and inserting "2022".

(c) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES UNDER HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.—Section 2021(a) of such title is amended by striking "reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force." and inserting the following: "reintegration into the labor force of—

"(1) homeless veterans (including veterans who were homeless but found housing during the 60-day period preceding the date on which the veteran begins to participate in a program under this section);

"(2) veterans participating in the Department of Veterans Affairs supported housing program for which rental assistance is provided pursuant to section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437(o)(19)) or the Tribal HUD-VA Supportive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH) program;

"(3) Indians who are veterans and receiving assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.);

"(4) veterans described in section 2023(e) of this title or any other veterans who are transitioning from being incarcerated; and

"(5) veterans participating in the Department of Veterans Affairs rapid rehousing and prevention program authorized in section 2044 of this title.".

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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 4451, as amended.

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