

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3475

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

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

AN ACT

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Columbus, Georgia, as the “Robert S. Poydasheff 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 makes the following findings:

3 (1) Former Columbus, Georgia, Mayor Robert
4 S. Poydasheff died on September 24, 2020.

5 (2) He earned a B.A. in Political Science from
6 the Citadel in 1954, a J.D. from Tulane University
7 Law School in 1957, an M.A. in International Rela-
8 tions from Boston University's Graduate Program in
9 Berlin, Germany, in 1967, and attended the Hague
10 Academy of International Law in the Netherlands in
11 preparation for a military and subsequent civilian
12 career that focused on serving others.

13 (3) In 1955, he was commissioned as a Second
14 Lieutenant in the Infantry Branch of the United
15 States Army, and he was reassigned to the Judge
16 Advocate General's Corps.

17 (4) He was a 1976 graduate of the United
18 States Army War College and served a total of 24
19 years, retiring as a Colonel in 1979.

20 (5) He was decorated with the Legion of Merit
21 with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal,
22 and Vietnam Ribbon with Four Battle Stars, and
23 during his military career and because of his expert
24 legal acumen he was assigned to work on the biggest
25 cases of the time in which he served, but during this

1 he never lost sight of what he considered his primary
2 role, which was to take care of soldiers.

3 (6) Robert S. Poydasheff was appointed as legal
4 counsel to the Secretary of the Army and served the
5 needs of all soldiers by helping to shape Army policy.

6 (7) In 2012, the Army War College Foundation
7 named Colonel Poydasheff an Outstanding Alumnus
8 in recognition of his wide-ranging service to his com-
9 munity after his retirement from active duty.

10 (8) Colonel Poydasheff served on the Columbus,
11 Georgia City Council from 1994 to 2002, helping all
12 citizens of the community he had come to love while
13 concurrently serving Fort Benning and his beloved
14 soldiers.

15 (9) He was elected Mayor of Columbus, Geor-
16 gia, in 2002, served a four-year term and main-
17 tained a focus on community-based programs as well
18 as strengthening the relationship between the city
19 and Fort Benning.

20 (10) During that time he made great contribu-
21 tions to the joint military and civilian communities
22 of Columbus, Georgia, and Fort Benning, appointing
23 first a fellow soldier and later the first African
24 American to the City Manager position, while know-
25 ing that doing so would be at his own political peril.

1 (11) After his service as Mayor of Columbus,
2 Georgia, Robert S. Poydasheff found continued suc-
3 cess as a practicing lawyer helping countless citizens
4 and soldiers living in the city he once led as well as
5 advocating for many soldiers in the area.

6 (12) His continued interest in the betterment of
7 the city as well as his contributions to the Veterans
8 Action Committee has a continued impact to this
9 day.

10 (13) He served as past president of the Chat-
11 tahoochee Council Boy Scouts of America, past
12 president of the Chattahoochee Valley Association of
13 the United States Army, past president of the Colum-
14 bus Symphony Orchestra, member of the Board of
15 Directors of the Springer Opera Arts Association,
16 past president of the Ann Elizabeth Shepherd
17 Home, and member of the Kiwanis Club and Colum-
18 bus Bar Association.

19 **SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
20 **COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, CO-**
21 **LUMBUS, GEORGIA.**

22 The Department of Veterans Affairs community-
23 based outpatient clinic in Columbus, Georgia, shall after
24 the date of the enactment of this Act be known and des-
25 ignated as the “Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic”. Any ref-

1 erence to such clinic in any law, regulation, map, docu-
2 ment, record, or other paper of the United States shall
3 be considered to be a reference to the Robert S.
4 Poydasheff VA Clinic.

Passed the House of Representatives September 20,
2021.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.