

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4955

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

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

AN ACT

To name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the “Henry Parham 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) Henry Parham was born in Emporia, Vir-
4 ginia, in November 1921.

5 (2) At age 21, Henry Parham was drafted into
6 the Army and shipped out to England in 1943 with
7 the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion in preparation
8 for the D-Day invasions.

9 (3) The 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, a
10 segregated Army unit, consisted of approximately
11 700 African-American soldiers with the mission of
12 hoisting barrage balloons designed to entangle in-
13 coming German planes and prevent them from con-
14 ducting strafing runs on ground troops.

15 (4) On June 6, 1944, Private First Class
16 Henry Parham and his section of the 320th Barrage
17 Balloon Battalion landed at Omaha Beach. With the
18 threat of enemy sniper and rifle fire ever present,
19 PFC Parham's unit performed their duties, hoisting
20 their barrage balloons 2,000 feet into the air over
21 the beachhead in Normandy.

22 (5) For two months, Private First Class Henry
23 Parham and the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion
24 stood watch at Omaha Beach, keeping the pipeline
25 of incoming supplies and Allied troops secure before
26 returning to the United States in September 1944.

1 (6) After his service, Henry Parham moved to
2 Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, where he lived and
3 worked as a heavy equipment operator until 1986.
4 There, he met and married his wife, Ethel Parham,
5 to whom he was married for more than 45 years.

6 (7) Henry Parham died on July 4, 2021, in
7 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the age of 99. He was
8 survived by his wife, Ethel, both of whom served for
9 decades as volunteers at the medical center of the
10 Department of Veterans Affairs in Pittsburgh,
11 Pennsylvania, and local chapters of veterans service
12 organizations.

13 (8) Henry Parham was the last surviving Afri-
14 can-American combat veteran who took part in the
15 D-Day landings on June 6, 1944.

16 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF HENRY PARHAM DEPARTMENT OF**
17 **VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.**

18 (a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient
19 clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroe-
20 ville, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the enactment
21 of this Act be known and designated as the “Henry
22 Parham Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the
23 “Henry Parham VA Clinic”.

24 (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regula-
25 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United

- 1 States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred
- 2 to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference
- 3 to the Henry Parham VA Clinic.

Passed the House of Representatives December 16,
2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.