

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9124

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the “Louis A. Conter VA Clinic”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2024

Mr. KILEY (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FONG, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. CORREA, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the “Louis A. Conter VA Clinic”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Louis “Lou” Anthony Conter was born on
6 September 13, 1921, in Ojibwa, Wisconsin.

1 (2) Lt. Commander Lou Conter, the last re-
2 maining survivor of the attack on the USS Arizona
3 at Pearl Harbor, was an American hero.

4 (3) On that fearful day, Petty Officer Conter
5 helped evacuate shipmates who were blinded, wound-
6 ed, or burned, even restraining some of his fellow
7 shipmates from jumping overboard into the burning
8 sea.

9 (4) In the days after the attack, he helped with
10 recovering bodies and putting out fires. Lou Conter's
11 heroic actions saved the lives of many of his ship-
12 mates on December 7, 1941.

13 (5) Following Pearl Harbor, Conter continued
14 serving during WWII in New Guinea and in Europe
15 as an enlisted naval aviation pilot assigned to VP-
16 11, a "Black Cat" Squadron.

17 (6) Lou Conter would be awarded with the Dis-
18 tinguished Flying Cross for actively taking part in
19 the rescue of 219 Australians trapped by Japanese
20 troops in New Guinea.

21 (7) Later, in the Korean War, he served on the
22 USS Bon Homme Richard as both an intelligence
23 officer and a navy aviation pilot. Following his serv-
24 ice in the Korean War, he served as a military intel-
25 ligence advisor to three Presidents: Dwight D. Ei-

1 senhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. John-
2 son.

3 (8) During the 1950s, Lou Conter played a
4 prominent role in the establishment and development
5 of the Navy Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Es-
6 cape (SERE) training program.

7 (9) In addition to the Distinguished Flying
8 Cross, he was awarded the Navy Commendation
9 Medal and became the first recipient of the USS Ar-
10 izona Medal of Freedom.

11 (10) Louis Conter retired from the Navy in
12 1967 after serving 28 years as a Lieutenant Com-
13 mander.

14 (11) Following his retirement, he generously
15 gave his time to share his personal experiences at
16 veterans' ceremonies and by giving lectures to stu-
17 dents.

18 (12) Lieutenant Commander Conter's lectures
19 were popular with generations of local students who
20 were equally fascinated and enthralled by his first-
21 person accounts.

22 (13) He is eminently deserving of recognition
23 for his decades of service to a grateful nation.

24 (14) Lieutenant Commander Conter passed
25 away in Grass Valley, California on April 1, 2024.

1 **SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
2 **COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, AU-**
3 **BURN, CALIFORNIA.**

4 The Department of Veterans Affairs community-
5 based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, shall after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act be known and des-
7 ignated as the “Louis A. Conter VA Clinic”. Any reference
8 to such clinic in any law, regulation, map, document,
9 record, or other paper of the United States shall be consid-
10 ered to be a reference to the Louis A. Conter VA Clinic.

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