

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9124

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 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

13 (4) In the days after the attack, he helped with
14 recovering bodies and putting out fires. Lou Conter’s
15 heroic actions saved the lives of many of his ship-
16 mates on December 7, 1941.

17 (5) Following Pearl Harbor, Conter continued
18 serving during WWII in New Guinea and in Europe
19 as an enlisted naval aviation pilot assigned to VP-
20 11, a “Black Cat” Squadron.

21 (6) Lou Conter would be awarded with the Dis-
22 tinguished Flying Cross for actively taking part in
23 the rescue of 219 Australians trapped by Japanese
24 troops in New Guinea.

25 (7) Later, in the Korean War, he served on the
26 USS Bon Homme Richard as both an intelligence

1 officer and a navy aviation pilot. Following his serv-
2 ice in the Korean War, he served as a military intel-
3 ligence advisor to three Presidents: Dwight D. Ei-
4 senhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. John-
5 son.

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

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

14 (10) Louis Conter retired from the Navy in
15 1967 after serving 28 years as a Lieutenant Com-
16 mander.

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

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

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives December 16,
2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.