

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2210

To designate the community living center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butler Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the “Sergeant Joseph George Kusick VA Community Living Center”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. DENT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To designate the community living center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butler Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the “Sergeant Joseph George Kusick VA Community Living Center”.

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) Sergeant Joseph George Kusick of Bruin,
6 Pennsylvania, was assigned to the command and
7 control detachment of the 5th Special Forces Group
8 (Airborne) of the Army during the Vietnam War.

1 (2) On November 8, 1967, Kusick distinguished
2 himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serv-
3 ing as a radio operator of a special forces reconnais-
4 sance team on a combat mission deep in hostile ter-
5 ritory.

6 (3) During an enemy ambush, Kusick, though
7 seriously wounded, refused aid and radioed the for-
8 ward air controller to advise him of the critical situ-
9 ation.

10 (4) While the team leader led a withdrawal to
11 a landing zone, Kusick maintained contact with the
12 controller and requested emergency extraction.

13 (5) Realizing the importance of having a radio
14 operator on the ground to direct landings, Kusick
15 refused evacuation by the first helicopter.

16 (6) After the second helicopter was shot down,
17 and in the midst of enemy fire, Kusick continued to
18 maintain radio contact and called for a hoist extrac-
19 tion of the men still remaining on the ground.

20 (7) The last helicopter, which Kusick boarded,
21 was shot down by intense Viet Cong fire and crashed
22 in flames, resulting in Kusick's death.

23 (8) On December 22, 1967, Kusick was post-
24 humously awarded the Silver Star Medal for gal-
25 lantry in action.

1 (9) The citation to accompany the award of the
2 Silver Star Medal stated that “Kusick’s gallantry in
3 action, at the cost of his life, was in keeping with
4 the highest traditions of the military service and re-
5 flects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the
6 United States Army”.

7 **SEC. 2. SERGEANT JOSEPH GEORGE KUSICK VA COMMU-**
8 **NITY LIVING CENTER.**

9 (a) DESIGNATION.—The community living center of
10 the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butler Township,
11 Butler County, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the
12 enactment of this Act be known and designated as the
13 “Sergeant Joseph George Kusick VA Community Living
14 Center”.

15 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
16 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
17 States to the community living center referred to in sub-
18 section (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Ser-
19 geant Joseph George Kusick VA Community Living Cen-
20 ter”.

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