

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 609

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs health care center in Center Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the “Abie Abraham VA Clinic”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DENT, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs health care center in Center Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the “Abie Abraham 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) Abie Abraham of Lyndora, Pennsylvania,
6 was stationed during World War II with the 18th
7 Infantry in New York; 3 years with the 14th Infan-

1 try in Panama; 15th Infantry, unassigned in China,
2 while the U.S.S. Panay was sunk; 30th Infantry,
3 Presidio, San Francisco; and the 31st Infantry, Ma-
4 nila, Philippines, for 9 years.

5 (2) During World War II, Abraham fought, was
6 captured, endured the Bataan Death March and as
7 a prisoner of war for 3½ years, was beaten, stabbed,
8 shot, survived malaria and starvation to be rescued
9 by the 6th Rangers.

10 (3) Abraham stayed behind at the request of
11 General Douglas MacArthur for 2½ more years
12 disinterring the bodies of his fallen comrades from
13 the Bataan Death March and the prison camps,
14 helping to identify their bodies and see that they
15 were properly laid to rest.

16 (4) After his promotion in 1945, Abraham
17 came back to the United States where he served as
18 a recruiter and then also served 2 years in Germany
19 until his retirement with 30 years of service as a
20 Master Sergeant.

21 (5) Abraham received numerous medals for his
22 service, including the Purple Heart, and had several
23 documentaries on the Discovery Channel and His-
24 tory Channel.

1 (6) Abraham wrote the books “Ghost of Bataan
2 Speaks” in 1971 and “Oh, God, Where Are You” in
3 1977 to help the public better understand what our
4 brave men endured at the hands of the Imperial
5 Japanese Army as prisoners of war.

6 (7) Abraham was a life member of the Veterans
7 of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Purple
8 Heart Combat/Infantry Organization, the American
9 Ex-POWs, the Disabled American Veterans, and the
10 American Defenders of Bataan.

11 (8) Abraham was a volunteer at Veterans Af-
12 fairs Butler Healthcare for 23 years from 1988 to
13 2011 and had 36,851 service hours caring for our
14 veterans.

15 **SEC. 2. ABIE ABRAHAM VA CLINIC.**

16 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Af-
17 fairs health care center in Center Township, Butler Coun-
18 ty, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the enactment of
19 this Act be known and designated as the “Abie Abraham
20 VA Clinic”.

21 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
22 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
23 States to the health care center referred to in subsection

- 1 (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Abie Abra-
- 2 ham VA Clinic”.

