

Creek's story done by the Amarillo Globe News and High Plains Public Radio. And, finally, I want to thank the Creek family for their patience and understanding and dignity with which they have approached this matter.

Mr. Speaker, in the late 1960s, Thomas E. Creek was in many ways a typical young man from the Texas panhandle. He had worked in a variety of jobs since he was 11 or 12 years old. He was a fan of Elvis Presley. He enjoyed being with his friends, and one remembered that he liked being in the middle of things. His brother, Ross, has been quoted as saying that "he didn't think Tom was afraid of anything. That's what gets me," he said to the Amarillo Globe News. "If he was afraid of anything, he kept it inside."

Tom Creek left school early and joined the Marine Corps. On the 4th of July, 1968, he stepped foot in Vietnam. In letters home, he called it hell. But on February 13, 1969, Marine Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek was a rifleman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. His unit was part of a resupply convoy that was ambushed by enemy forces using mortars, mines, fragmentation grenades, and small arms.

According to the documents recommending him for the Medal of Honor, the fierce combat found the men firing at point-blank range. Corporal Creek was struck in the neck by a bullet. Blood was seen flowing from the wound. But then he noticed a fragmentation grenade land between him and the rest of the squad. Though wounded, he threw his body on top of the grenade. One of the Marines with him recalled seeing him run towards the grenade and yell, "I've got it, Mac." His body absorbed the full impact of the grenade, saving the lives of at least five Marines nearby. His act inspired the rest of the squad to defeat the enemy and complete its mission to resupply the forward combat base. Eleven others were wounded, but only Tom Creek was killed.

Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest honor our Nation can bestow. This bill, as the chairman mentioned, will rename the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Amarillo, Texas, the Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Dr. Craig Barnes has said that as he read the book "The Greatest Generation," he was struck by the fact that each of those described was a regular person. No one was born a hero. But when pushed, they found something heroic inside themselves. Heroes are ordinary people who refuse to be governed by fear when times are hard, he said.

Tom Creek was a regular person. He was also a hero. He reached down within himself and made a decision in a split second, a decision to sacrifice his life in order to save the lives of others. It is the same kind of sacrifice which men and women have made throughout

our history, from the Revolutionary War to the streets of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan, sacrifice for others while serving and defending the Nation.

I believe that naming this veterans medical center for this 18-year-old who sacrificed everything he had is a fitting tribute to his incredible heroism and sacrifice; that it will enhance the honor that rightfully belongs to those who have served our Nation and will be treated in this facility; and I hope that it will remind the rest of us that we too can refuse to be governed by fear and find something heroic inside ourselves as our duties demand.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to honor Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek by renaming the Amarillo VA Medical Center for him. As we are once again forced to confront on an almost daily basis the sacrifice of the young men and women who are serving our Nation, it is fitting and appropriate that we continue to honor the uncommon bravery of those soldiers who came before them.

Thomas Creek embodied such bravery, when in February of 1969 he selflessly gave his own life to save the lives of fellow Marines in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, by all accounts, Thomas Creek was a young man who deserves this honor which we can bestow upon him today, and I am proud to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4836.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4836.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### THOMAS P. NOONAN, JR., DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1318) to name

the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, as the "Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1318

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC, QUEENS, NEW YORK.

The Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic". Any reference to such clinic in any law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the "Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1318 would name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in the City of Sunnyside, Queens, New York, for Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., a Marine, who on February 5, 1969, was killed in action in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.

Lance Corporal Noonan was 25 years old on that fateful morning in Vietnam when serving as a fire team leader he was mortally wounded while valiantly trying to drag a wounded Marine to safety. For his heroic actions, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest military decoration.

I want to commend my distinguished colleague on the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), for introducing H.R. 1318. This is the second naming bill the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has brought to the floor today to honor servicemembers who gave their lives in Vietnam. These are bipartisan measures which pay homage to our fallen heroes. I am pleased to bring these bills before the House for its consideration.

I hope that these stories of bravery and sacrifice are an inspiration to the new generation of soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen who are so ably serving our country in the war against terrorism. By naming these facilities to honor Lance Corporals Noonan and Creek, we also signify our intent to continue providing health care to veterans of our Armed Forces now and into the future.

Again, I am grateful to my friend and colleague on the other side of the aisle for introducing it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the bill introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), to rename the Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, after Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr.

Lance Corporal Noonan was mortally wounded in combat in Vietnam. For his actions under fire, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and thank my colleague for consideration in honoring a valiant veteran who gave his life defending the principles that America stands for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) for yielding me this time and for her leadership on this important committee.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud New Yorker and a representative of the people of Queens, New York, I am very pleased and honored to rise in strong support of H.R. 1318, a bill authored by my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

This bill would designate the Federal Veterans Administration outpatient clinic located at 4103 Queens Boulevard in Sunnyside, Queens, as the Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr. Veterans Outpatient Clinic.

Thomas P. Noonan, the son of Thomas Patrick Noonan, Sr., and Florence, was a life-long resident of Woodside, Queens, New York. He attended school at St. Theresa's parish and graduated from Hunter College with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1966.

On December 26, 1967, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve; and in July 1968 he was sent to the Republic of Vietnam, where he served as a mortar man with his battalion and later as a rifleman in the 3rd Marine Division. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on New Year's Day 1969.

On February 5, 1969, his company was ordered to change the position they had been holding near the Vandergrift Combat Base in A Sahau Valley. This change was made especially difficult by recent heavy rains. Descent down the steep hillside proved treacherous, and four leading men in the company were wounded by North Vietnamese soldiers concealed in the area.

The other members of the company were unable to rescue the four wounded Marines in the midst of heavy enemy fire. Noonan left his position of relative safety and descended through the hazardous terrain. Protected by rocky outcroppings, Noonan shouted words of encouragement to his fellow friends who were wounded.

Bracing himself, Noonan then made a dash towards the injured men and had started to drag the most seriously wounded one to safety when he himself

was hit by enemy fire. Noonan picked himself up and continued to drag the other soldier, his friend, away but was mortally wounded himself before he could carry his comrade to safety.

His heroic actions in the face of great danger so roused his fellow Marines that they launched an assault on the enemy position that forced the North Vietnamese soldiers to withdraw.

Noonan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Nixon, as well as the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, with two Bronze Stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lance Corporal Noonan's courage, inspiring initiative, and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

In 1996, to commemorate his life, his spirit, and his heroic acts, the City of New York dedicated a public park in his honor in Queens. Now this Congress is taking the appropriate step to name the VA outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, after Lance Corporal Noonan. This tribute enjoys the support of every major veterans service organization in New York State, and many local veterans posts throughout Queens, including but not limited to the Queens County American Legion; Queens County Catholic War Veterans; the Vietnam Veterans of America, Queens Chapter; and the John V. Daniels VFW Post.

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On behalf of my colleagues in New York and especially my Queens neighbor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), I urge support of my colleagues for this fitting tribute to an American hero.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill H.R. 1318. This bill, which I have introduced, will designate the Federal Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic located at 41-03 Queens Boulevard in Sunnyside, Queens as the "Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr. Veterans Outpatient Clinic."

On October 30, 2000, I presided at the opening of the Sunnyside Veterans Outpatient Clinic—something I had been championing on behalf of the veterans of northwestern Queens County. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, I was invited across the street for a drink with a few of the people who would most benefit from this clinic—the veterans of the John V. Daniels Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

That day, I sat down with the late Adolph Seifert, Post Adjutant and Ray Murray, Commander of the Post. And they told me about Lance Corporal Thomas Noonan.

Thomas P. Noonan was born November 18, 1943, in Brooklyn, NY, the son of Thomas Patrick Noonan, Sr., and Florence. He was a lifelong resident of Woodside, Queens; attended St. Theresa's Parish, Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, and later grad-

uated from Hunter College with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1966.

On December 26, 1967, Thomas Noonan enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and was subsequently discharged to enlist in the Regular Marine Corps on 31 January 1968. Private Noonan completed recruit training with the 3d Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC, in April 1968, and was promoted to private first class, 1 April 1968. Transferred to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC, he underwent individual combat training with the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Training Regiment.

Ordered to the Republic of Vietnam in July 1968, he was assigned duty as mortar man with H&S Company, 2d Battalion, 27th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF. In August, he was reassigned to the 3d Marine Division where he saw combat as a rifleman, M-79 man with Company G, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on January 1, 1969.

On February 5, 1969, his company was ordered to change the position they had been holding near the Vandergrift Combat Base in Ashau Valley. This change made especially difficult by recent heavy rains; descent down the steep hillside provided treacherous and four leading men in the company were wounded by North Vietnamese soldiers concealed in the area. The other members of the company were unable to rescue the four wounded marines in the midst of heavy enemy fire. Noonan left his position of relative safety and descended the hazardous terrain. Protected by a rocky outcropping, Noonan shouted words of encouragement to the wounded men. Bracing himself, Noonan then made a dash toward the injured men and had started to drag the most seriously wounded one to safety when he himself was hit by enemy fire. Noonan picked himself up and continued to drag the soldier away, but was mortally wounded himself before he could carry his comrade to safety.

His heroic actions in the face of harrowing danger so roused his fellow marines that they launched an assault on the enemy position that forced the North Vietnamese soldiers to withdraw. Noonan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously as well as the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lance Corporal Noonan was survived by his parents, three sisters and one brother.

I was taken by his bravery and loyalty. After the request from Adolph Seifert to name the VA clinic in honor of Thomas P. Noonan, I got to work and put together legislation to enact this change.

It is an honor to be here today seeing this tribute pass the House of Representatives. This tribute today goes to his memory. But we would not be here today without the support of the late Adolph Seifert, or Ray Murray and Regis Quirin—all of the Daniels VFW Post.

But this legislation enjoyed the strong support of veterans all over Queens County and the State of New York. On a State level, this legislation enjoys the support of the American Legion, AMVETS, the Vietnam Veterans of America—which is currently headed by another Queens resident John Rowan—the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Blinded

Veterans Association, the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association—based in my Congressional District in Queens—and the New York State Counsel of Veterans Organizations. Their help was invaluable in this process.

But I especially would like to note the help from local Queens County veterans chapters, starting with the Daniels VFW Post—the inspiration behind this tribute—as well as John Severa and the Queens County American Legion; William Roach and the Catholic War Veterans of Queens County; Donald Haber and the Jewish War Veterans Queens County Chapter; Thomas Lakeman and the Frank Kowalinski Post representing the Polish War Veterans of Queens County; Donald McBride and the Sgt Edward R. Miller VFW Post in Glendale, Queens. I want to thank them all.

I also want to pay tribute to Florence Noonan, the mother of Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan. While we pay tribute to a hero, she mourns the loss of a son. Lance Corporal Noonan's indomitable courage, inspiring initiative and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

In 1996, to commemorate his life, his spirit and his heroism, the city of New York dedicated a public park in his honor in Queens. Now children can play and recreate in a safe community park dedicated to an American hero, who himself majored in physical education at Hunter College. Now, this Congress is taking the appropriate step to name the VA outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, after Lance Corporal Noonan.

On behalf of all of my New York State colleagues—Democrat and Republican, upstate and from the city—who were all cosponsors and supporters of this legislation, I am pleased that the House is debating this legislation and I look forward to its passage and enactment into law.

This is a fitting tribute to an American hero. Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1318.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1318.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION ACT

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 2457) to authorize funds for an educational center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2457

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### **TITLE I—CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT PRESERVATION ACT**

##### **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

*This title may be cited as the "Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act".*

##### **SEC. 102. VISITOR CENTER.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations and the project being prioritized in the National Park Services 5-year, line-item construction program, the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") may design and construct a Visitor Center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument (referred to in this section as the "Monument").

(b) **PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.**—The Visitor Center authorized in subsection (a) shall be located and constructed in accordance with the Preferred Alternative identified in the Record of Decision for the General Management Plan for the Monument, expected to be signed in 2005.

##### **SEC. 103. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**

The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the City of St. Augustine, Florida, the Colonial St. Augustine Preservation Foundation, other Federal, State, and local departments or agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit entities for the planning and design, construction, management, and operation of the Visitor Center.

##### **SEC. 104. BOUNDARY EXPANSION.**

(a) **PROPERTY ACQUISITION.**—If the Preferred Alternative for the Visitor Center authorized by section 102 is located outside the boundary of the Monument, the Secretary is authorized to acquire the site for the Visitor Center, from willing sellers, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION OF NEWLY ACQUIRED LAND.**—Land added to the Monument pursuant to subsection (a) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

(c) **BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.**—The boundary of the Monument shall be modified to reflect the acquisition of land authorized in subsection (a) after completion of the acquisition.

##### **SEC. 105. PROJECT APPROVAL.**

Prior to initiating any planning, design, or construction on the Visitor Center authorized by section 102, the project must be reviewed and approved by the National Park Service consistent with partnership construction guidelines established by that agency.

#### **TITLE II—CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION**

##### **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

*This title may be cited as the "Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004".*

##### **SEC. 202. FINDINGS.**

*Congress finds the following:*

(1) The early defense lines for Fort Marion, Florida, today known as the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, included defenses extending in a line due west to the Sebastian River, a distance of about one half mile.

(2) In the 1830's, during the Seminole Wars in Florida, these defensive lines were maintained, but as Florida became more settled they fell into disrepair and/or became obsolete.

(3) In 1908 the War Department deeded much of the property running west to the Sebastian River to the St. Johns County Board of Public Instruction. The portion of this property remaining in federal ownership today is occupied by Orange Street, a City of St. Augustine, Florida street.

(4) For nearly a century, the City of St. Augustine has maintained and managed Orange Street, a modern city street, and associated utilities in the Orange Street corridor.

(5) Any archeological remains that are still present on the property overlaid by Orange Street are adequately protected by the City's archeological ordinances, and by the City having an archeologist on staff.

(6) Although the city currently operates Orange Street under a right-of-way from the National Park Service, from a management perspective it is appropriate for the City of St. Augustine to own Orange Street.

##### **SEC. 203. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.**

(a) **CONVEYANCE OF LAND.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey, without consideration, to the City of St. Augustine, Florida, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands known as Orange Street, a portion of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument (Monument), consisting of approximately 3.1 acres, as shown on the map entitled Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment and Correction, numbered 343/80060, and dated April 2003. Upon completion of the conveyance, the Secretary shall revise the boundary of the Monument to exclude the land conveyed.

(b) **BOUNDARY REVISION.**—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the boundary of the Monument is revised to include an area of approximately 0.45 acres, as shown on the map identified in subsection (a). The Secretary shall administer the lands included in the boundary as part of the national monument in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Mr. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2457, the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act. It is also entitled the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004. I thank the gentleman for taking me out of order at the beginning as sponsor of this legislation to explain it for a second and speak in support.

The Castillo de San Marcos National Monument is the oldest existing permanent seacoast fortification in the continental United States. This is not only a unique national park, but also a