

learned a lot, also as a military force, in guerrilla tactics. And a lot of that is coming home to roost here in the successes that General Petraeus had also used here with regard to the surge.

In the war in which I had served in, the first Gulf war, that war, the first Gulf war, its success came from the leadership of the Vietnam veteran. Those Vietnam veterans were, in fact, the senior NCOs, and they were the general officers and the senior colonels, and they knew the mistakes of Vietnam. They also knew that in Vietnam it was as soon as they hit the ground, they wanted to know when their rotation would end, when do they get to go home. And so when we went in the first Gulf war, it was nothing about rotation. It was all about we're here to do a job, we do the job and get to go home.

So that leadership, the senior leadership from Vietnam, had a great impact upon our military heritage and our legacy.

And so acknowledging the service and the honored sacrifice of the Vietnam veterans, I want to thank the chairman for doing that. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 1231.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. I urge my colleagues to join our committee unanimously to support House Resolution 1231.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the millions of veterans who served our country during the Vietnam War.

March 29th, 1973 marked the official departure of the last American troops in Vietnam.

During the longest military conflict in U.S. history, over 3 million Americans served in Southeast Asia. Over 58,000 Americans lost their lives and 304,000 additional Americans were wounded.

Those who fought to preserve our freedom in Vietnam have never received the hero's welcome they richly deserve.

Derrell Maxwell and the Veterans of Chapter 994 of Vietnam Veterans of America in Franklin, North Carolina recently approached me with an idea. They wanted Congress to commemorate March 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day.

I was proud to work with Chairman FILNER to get the full House of Representatives on record in support of this idea. House Resolution 1231 calls on all Americans to take time each March 29th to remember all of the service members who defended our Nation in Vietnam.

We honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, those held captive or missing in action, and those who sustained wounds, both seen and unseen. To all Vietnam veterans, including my constituents in Western North Carolina and those currently serving in this body, I offer

my deepest thanks for your service to our Nation.

I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. FILNER. 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 California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1231.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ELWOOD "BUD" LINK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2245) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2245

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF ELWOOD "BUD" LINK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic located in Wenatchee, Washington, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Elwood 'Bud' Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support of H.R. 2245, a bill to name the VA Outpatient Clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, after Elwood "Bud" Link.

Mr. Link, along with his comrades from the Cashmere Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1045, was the driving force in getting a VA clinic built in North Central Washington. A veteran of World War II, Link worked tirelessly to bring

accessible health care to his rural community.

And according to the Northwest Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, "Bud may not be the highest ranking veteran in the community or the one with the most medals. But if you ask us, no one stood taller than him in the veteran community and naming the [clinic] after him will inspire us all to greater heights."

In a newspaper article on the opening of the clinic, Mr. Link's widow stated that the message of Link's work for veterans was "if you want to get something done, get a group behind you and go for it." Mr. Link did just that, and today, the veterans of rural Washington have a veterans' health care facility.

So today we not only honor the work of Elwood "Bud" Link, we also, in a very real sense, recognize the efforts of all of our veterans who work tirelessly day after day to ensure that their comrades get the health care benefits that they earned in service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, everywhere I go across the Nation I find leaders like Bud Link who don't just care about their own benefits, their own next appointment with the VA, but all the veterans, and they work in their community to make sure that we as a Congress respond to those needs. And I hope that we continue to respond to them.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. I rise in support of H.R. 2245, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic. I commend my colleague from Washington, DOC HASTINGS, for introducing this bill.

Bud was a very outspoken Navy veteran of World War II. Along with his friend and fellow veteran Bill Forte, he worked tirelessly with local veteran service organizations and elected officials to establish this outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, which is about 148 miles from Seattle. Bud is recognized as the catalyst behind this outpatient clinic, but unfortunately, he passed away before seeing its opening.

This selfless example of service to veterans is an inspiration to us all and certainly should be recognized. Memorializing Bud by renaming the clinic will recognize his service as both a seaman and as a veteran advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. I'm prepared to close and would reserve my time.

Mr. BUYER. I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2245.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of H.R. 2245, my bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington in honor of Elwood "Bud" Link.

Bud joined the Navy in 1941 and served on the destroyer USS *Tracy* that aided U.S. forces at Guadalcanal, Okinawa, and elsewhere in the Pacific. He was one of many residents of north central Washington who were called to serve their country during World War II. However, Bud's support for his Nation didn't stop when his military service ended.

As an active member of the local Cashmere Veterans of Foreign Wars post, Bud was a dedicated advocate for increased hometown health care. He experienced firsthand the long distances north central Washington veterans had to travel for even the most basic health care. In 2001, the Cashmere-Leavenworth VFW passed a motion to research the need for a VA clinic, and Bud quickly took the lead. He became a tireless proponent of bringing a veterans outpatient clinic to north central Washington.

Bud was instrumental in keeping the local veterans motivated, active and informed about how to successfully make a clinic a reality. He championed the clinic until his death in 2003.

For several years I worked with Bud Link and local veterans to make the case for a new clinic in north central Washington and press the VA when the project faced delays. Our hard work paid off in 2006 when the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approved a new clinic. And, in 2007 I was very proud to attend the grand opening of the new VA clinic in Wenatchee.

As a tribute to Bud's work to support hometown health care for rural Washington state veterans, Senator PATTY MURRAY and I introduced legislation to name the clinic in Bud's honor.

This bill has the endorsement of the local community, the entire Washington state Congressional delegation, the Washington state Chapters of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

By officially naming this clinic in Wenatchee after Bud, we are paying respect to a local veteran who fought for the quality care his fellow veterans deserve.

I would like to thank Bud's wife, Helen, for her steadfast support of Bud's efforts. I would also like to thank the members of the Cashmere-Leavenworth VFW for their work to organize the local community in support of the clinic. Finally, I would like to thank Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for their work to bring this bill to the floor today.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2245. Through this bill we are recognizing the heroic efforts of Bud Link and his work to improve the health care of his fellow veterans.

Mr. FILNER. I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2245.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SPINAL CORD INJURY CENTER

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4264) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs spinal cord injury center in Tampa, Florida, as the "Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4264

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 SPINAL CORD INJURY CENTER, TAMPA, FLORIDA.

The spinal cord injury center located at the James A. Haley Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tampa, Florida, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center". Any reference to such center in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the "Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support to name the VA Spinal Cord Injury Center in Tampa, Florida, after our former colleague, Michael Bilirakis, and I thank Mr. MILLER for bringing us this important resolution.

One of the virtues, I guess—although some people advise against this—of naming a facility after someone who's living and who's a former colleague is that we remember him. It's not a historical kind of moment. We have known Michael for many, many, many years in this House, and his efforts, of course, brought this particular center into being. And it's fitting that we recognize his efforts.

But he was responsible for a great many things. His background was in the Air Force where he served for 4 years. He left for the Congress in 1982, served here for 24 years, retired at the end of the last Congress, and we miss

his advocacy for veterans. Although, his son, GUS, has taken his place and is a member of our Veterans' Affairs Committee and I'm sure will achieve greatness in terms of his advocacy for veterans, also.

I just have to say personally about Mr. Bilirakis, if he is listening. Mike Bilirakis was a little old fashioned. He believed in civility, that, in fact, we should relate to each other as human beings. We could differ on issues, but we have to speak with respect and complete integrity in the way we deal with each other.

I will tell you that he was not always happy with some of my statements in my years on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, but he would not just let them go. He came up to me and explained why he thought I should take a different tone.

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And he convinced me that working with the other party, working together on the committee, in fact, you can achieve much more. He really became the conscience of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I think he made that committee far more civil, and we miss him, of course, today.

I admired and watched him for many, many years deal with the issue that not too many people understood, it was called "concurrent receipt," that those who were retirees from our Armed Forces but who also were disabled from their time in the service would get both payments because they earned them both; and yet the law had offset them, and so the disabled veteran was actually paying for his disability.

Michael Bilirakis fought tirelessly to get rid of that offset, to have, in fact, concurrent receipt. He was able to achieve his goal for about half of the veterans. We're going to continue his work. And I know GUS is taking the lead to make sure we get full concurrent receipt and really honor him not only in the naming of this center, but in finally achieving that goal for really millions of veterans.

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

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4264, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center in Tampa, Florida, as the "Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center."

Mr. Michael Bilirakis served in the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1955 and served Florida's Ninth District as Congressman for 24 years, from 1983 to 2007. As a veteran, Mike wanted to be a strong veterans' advocate in Congress, and specifically requested to be appointed to a seat on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Those of us who served with Mike on the committee well remember his hard work on what the chairman just spoke about, the issue of concurrent receipt. Since his first introduction of the legislation in the 99th Congress to eliminate the offset of the military pension