

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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEMENT C. VAN WAGONER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2339) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2339

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEMENT C. VAN WAGONER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs clinic located in Alpena, Michigan, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the brave service of LTC Clement C. Van Wagoner.

LTC Van Wagoner was Michigan's most highly decorated veteran in World War II, earning, amongst other honors, the Combat Infantry Badge, seven Bronze Stars, four Silver Stars, and five Purple Hearts.

The awarding of the Combat Infantry Badge reflects the valor of those brave men and women who serve on the front lines in defense of our Nation. The Bronze Star is the fourth highest combat decoration that can be awarded by the U.S. Armed Forces and is given for acts of heroism or meritorious achievement. The Silver Star is awarded for acts of gallantry that have been performed with marked distinction in line of duty. And the Purple Heart, of course, is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who have been injured or killed while serving our Nation. LTC Van Wagoner's attainment of these decorations, some of the highest our country has to bestow, is indicative of

the highly courageous manner in which he served.

On D-day, June 6, 1944, LTC Van Wagoner landed on Omaha Beach, along with 1,800 of his fellow members of the 1st Infantry Division, and came away as only one of 32 survivors.

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The courage to fight on in the face of such peril speaks volumes about the strength of character LTC Van Wagoner possessed.

In the fall of 1944, while then a lieutenant, Van Wagoner served in Germany and participated in the battle for the city of Aachen as part of Company A of the 1st Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division. The battle required a fight for the heavily defended "Crucifix Hill" which was riddled with German pillboxes. As the executive officer of Company A, LTC Van Wagoner by all accounts kept his company well organized and was instrumental in the 1st Infantry taking "Crucifix Hill" despite suffering many casualties. All told, LTC Van Wagoner was in combat for 600 days and was wounded on five separate occasions.

Following the end of the Second World War, he continued to give of himself for his country by commanding a battalion of the Michigan National Guard until his retirement in 1967.

His record of accomplishments should be a reminder to us all of the heroic personal sacrifices that have been made by great Americans in the service of our Nation. That is why it is with great pleasure I bring S. 2339 to the floor today to name the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs new Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Alpena, Michigan, in honor of LTC Van Wagoner.

The Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic, as it will be designated, will help to improve the lives of North Michigan veterans by allowing them to receive health services locally in their community.

Having passed away last spring at the age of 93, it is a fitting tribute for Michigan's most decorated soldier to have the new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic designated in recognition of his valiant service.

I thank my colleagues and especially Congressman STUPAK of Michigan and Senators STABENOW and LEVIN of Michigan for introducing this important legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I also with my colleague from California rise in support of Senate bill 2339, a bill that was brought out recently to designate the Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Alpena, Michigan as the Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Veterans Affairs Clinic.

As pointed out by Dr. Filner, this is a very exceptional individual. Serving in the Army during World War II, LTC

Van Wagoner was in combat for 600 days. He was severely wounded on five different occasions and was only one of 32 survivors of the 1,800 soldiers who landed with the 1st Infantry Division at Omaha Beach on D-day. And many of us in this body have been to Omaha Beach. I was there in the 50th anniversary and saw the number of graves there and saw the arduous task involved. And we saw the film that also showed the amount of work, the number of people that fought and the people who survived. And this is one of them.

LTC Van Wagoner continued to serve his country even after World War II in the Michigan National Guard until he retired in 1967. Now, among the honors he received for his service was the Combat Infantry Badge. That is saying something for him right there. But he also received seven Bronze Stars, seven, four Silver Stars, and obviously five Purple Hearts because being in combat for 600 days and continuing to serve his country, it is not altogether surprising that he would continue to be wounded. So this is an extraordinary individual. And this bill before us today is naming this clinic after him.

I would say to my colleague from California, perhaps in the future, under our Veterans' Affairs Committee's rules for bipartisan naming policy for facilities, it would appear that next year we perhaps should reorganize the committee for the 111th Congress and revisit the naming policy, because obviously I think this person should be named under it, but I think under the strict guidelines we've established, it is not quite clear that this would be a naming facility for him. But under the circumstances, this fellow is very well qualified. I would just remind the chairman that we need to do that.

Mr. Speaker, our actions to approve this bill today will send it to the White House for signature. I urge my colleagues to approve this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to yield back.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2339.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. 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 Senate bill, S. 2339.

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. STEARNS. 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.

COLONEL OLA LEE MIZE VETERANS CLINIC

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5736) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Gadsden, Alabama, as the Colonel Ola Lee Mize Veterans Clinic.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5736

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

SECTION 1. FINDING.

Congress finds that Colonel Ola Lee Mize, a Medal of Honor recipient, is a highly decorated veteran from the State of Alabama.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN GADSDEN, ALABAMA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs community based outpatient clinic in Gadsden, Alabama, shall be known and designated as the "Colonel Ola Lee Mize Veterans Clinic". Any reference to such community based outpatient clinic in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Colonel Ola Lee Mize Veterans Clinic.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for H.R. 5736, a bill to name the veterans clinic in Gadsden, Alabama, after Col. Ola Lee Mize.

It is a great honor for me to stand here before you to talk about Col. Ola Lee Mize. He received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Korean War, and he deserves our further recognition.

The Medal of Honor is awarded in the name of Congress to a person who distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.

As a member of Company K, then Sergeant Mize courageously defended "Outpost Harry" near Surang-ni, Korea, on June 11 and June 12 in 1953. His deed was one of personal bravery. He clearly distinguished himself by exhibiting tremendous courage. He served our Nation by going beyond the call of

duty while facing the enemy and was willing to risk his own life to protect the lives of others.

Colonel Mize and his company faithfully defended a strategically valuable position when the enemy launched a heavy attack. Upon learning that a comrade on a friendly listening post had been wounded, he moved through the intense barrage accompanied by a medical aid man and rescued the wounded soldier.

On returning to his main position, he established an effective defense system and inflicted heavy casualties against attacks from determined enemy assault forces which had penetrated into trenches within the outpost area. During his fearless actions, he was blown down by artillery and grenade blasts three times, but each time he dauntlessly returned to his position, tenaciously fighting and successfully repelling hostile attacks.

When the enemy onslaughts ceased, he took his few men and moved from bunker to bunker, firing through apertures and throwing grenades at the foe, neutralizing their positions.

When an enemy soldier stepped out behind a comrade, prepared to fire, Col. Mize killed him, saving the life of his fellow soldier. After rejoining the platoon, moving from man to man, distributing ammunition and shouting words of encouragement, he observed a friendly machine gun position overrun. He immediately fought his way to the position, killing ten enemies and dispersing the remainder. Fighting back to the command post and finding several friendly wounded there, he took a position to protect them.

Later, securing a radio, he directed friendly artillery fire upon the attacking enemy's routes of approach. At dawn he helped regroup for a counter-attack which successfully drove the enemy from that outpost. Col. Mize's valorous conduct and unflinching courage reflect lasting glory upon himself and upon the noble traditions of the military service.

Besides having been awarded the Medal of Honor, Col. Mize has been awarded the Bronze Star, Good Conduct with Two Loops, National Defense Service, Korean Service with two Bronze Stars, and the United Nations Service.

Today, by passing H.R. 5736, which would designate the outpatient clinic in Gadsden, Alabama as the Colonel Ola Lee Mize Veterans Clinic, we honor his bravery and courage and of course that of all soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Alabama, ROBERT ADERHOLT, for introducing this bill. And I urge the support of my colleagues.

I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise also in support of H.R. 5736, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Gadsden, Alabama, as the Colonel Ola Lee Mize Veterans Clinic. I will shortly, as has

been pointed out by the chairman, recognize the bill's primary sponsor, Mr. ROBERT ADERHOLT of Alabama, for him to more fully discuss Col. Mize's contributions to our Nation. They are indeed very impressive.

While serving as a master sergeant during the Korean War, his company was defending an outpost when the enemy launched a heavy attack. Sergeant Mize rescued a wounded comrade at a listening post and returned to the main position where he established a defensive position and in turn inflicted many, many enemy casualties.

Taking the offensive, Sergeant Mize held off the enemy attacks. He organized an effective counterattack and directed artillery fire. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his valorous conduct and unflinching courage, upholding the most noble traditions of our military service. Mr. Mize's military career did not end just in Korea. In the early 1960s, Mr. Mize joined the Army Special Forces, better known as the Green Berets. He spent another 20 years in the Green Berets, including time spent commanding the Special Forces School at Fort Bragg. And he served nearly 4 years of duty in Vietnam where he was shot three times.

Col. Mize retired from the military after Vietnam, having been awarded a number of decorations in addition to the Medal of Honor.

So it's altogether right that we honor one of our Nation's heroes by naming this facility in Gadsden, Alabama after him.

At this point I yield as much time as he may consume to the author of the bill, Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member for their support of this piece of legislation. And of course as it has been said, we're here today to honor Ola Lee Mize by naming the veterans clinic in Gadsden, Alabama after him. Col. Mize was a soldier in the United States Army during the Korean war. And as has already been mentioned, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on June 10 and 11, 1953.

Most people may be surprised to learn that just over 100 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor are alive today. And only one of them lives in Alabama. And I'm honored that Ola Lee Mize resides in the district I represent, which is the Fourth District of Alabama.

Ola Lee Mize was the son of an Alabama sharecropper. He dropped out of school in 1946 after the ninth grade. And he did that so that he could take care of his mother, his brothers and his sisters. A few years later he decided he could do better. So he left a job that was paying \$15 a week and then enlisted in the United States Army.

However, when he went to apply to the Army, he was rejected because he weighed only 120 pounds. But he was persistent, and recruiters finally let him enlist. Mize's military career