

MANN-GRANDSTAFF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3197) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Spokane, Washington, as the "Mann-Grandstaff Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3197

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 MEDICAL CENTER, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON.

The Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Spokane, Washington, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Mann-Grandstaff Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center". Any reference to such medical center in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Mann-Grandstaff Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

□ 1720

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3197 would rename the medical center in Spokane the Mann-Grandstaff Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. This legislation would recognize not one but two American heroes, both Medal of Honor recipients: Private First Class Joe Eugene Mann and Platoon Sergeant Bruce Alan Grandstaff. Their story is nothing less than heroic.

Private First Class Mann served in the 101st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army during World War II.

On September 18, 1944, while under heavy fire, he crept into range of the enemy's artillery position and was able to destroy key weaponry. Though wounded four times, he refused medical evacuation in order to remain with and stand guard over his platoon throughout the night. During an attack the next morning, PFC Mann selflessly threw himself on top of a live grenade, sacrificing his own life to save those of his fellow soldiers around him.

He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery on August 30, 1945.

Platoon Sergeant Grandstaff served in the Eight Infantry Regiment, Fourth Infantry Division during the Vietnam War.

On May 18, 1967, a weapons platoon he was leading came under attack. Though he was under heavy enemy fire from three directions, Platoon Sergeant Grandstaff raced to the aid of several of his fellow soldiers who had been wounded, saving the life of one. Seriously wounded himself and unable to maneuver around the enemy onslaught, he refused medical aid and continued to defend his position fiercely. At one point, he was able to

crawl to within ten meters of an enemy machine gun and destroy it with hand grenades, saving countless lives. Platoon Sergeant Grandstaff eventually succumbed to his wounds in the battlefield.

He was also posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery on that day.

Together, Private First Class Mann and Platoon Sergeant Grandstaff are examples of the best, the most courageous, and the most giving and selfless parts of the American spirit. To have the VAMC in their home state of Washington bear their names is a proper and befitting honor.

H.R. 3197 has received the unanimous support of Washington's Congressional delegation and major veterans service organizations (VSOs).

Among the many Washington State VSOs who have provided letters of support of this legislation are: the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Department of Washington, the American Legion Department of Washington, the American Veterans (AMVETS) Department of Washington, the American Ex Prisoners of War Department of Washington, the Disabled American Veterans Department of Washington, the Fleet Reserve Association Northwest Region, the Washington State Gold Star Mothers, the Gold Star Wives of America Northwest Region, the Department of Washington Marine Corps League, the Washington State Military Officers Association of America, and the Blue Star Mothers of Washington.

Further, the Congressional Budget Office, in a preliminary cost estimate, has assured me that H.R. 3197 represents only a minimal cost of less than five hundred thousand dollars to the federal Government.

At this time I yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of this particular piece of legislation, the chairwoman of the Republican Conference, the gentlelady from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS).

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3197, naming the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, after two of our local eastern Washington heroes the Mann-Grandstaff Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Private First Class Joe E. Mann and Platoon Sergeant Bruce A. Grandstaff are heroes from eastern Washington who gave their last full measure of devotion to our Nation. Both men have been awarded the Medal of Honor for their bravery in World War II and the Vietnam War, respectively.

After graduating from high school in Reardan, Washington, Private First Class Joe E. Mann, like two of his brothers, joined the Army and trained at Fort Lewis in Washington State. Two years after enlisting, PFC Mann was on the front lines in Best, Holland, where his platoon was surrounded. In the face of heavy fire, PFC Mann was able to destroy an ammunition dump and took out numerous enemy troops. Despite being wounded four times, including both arms, PFC Mann refused to be evacuated and instead remained with his platoon and stood guard that

evening. The following morning, the enemy attacked, throwing hand grenades as they approached. A grenade landed within a few feet of PFC Mann. Unable to raise his bandaged arms, PFC Mann yelled, Grenade, and threw his body on top of it. Saving his fellow soldiers, PFC Mann died moments after the explosion. For this act of gallantry, PFC Mann was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Born and raised in Spokane, Washington, Platoon Sergeant Bruce A. Grandstaff graduated from North Central High School in 1952, and enlisted in the Army a few years later. In 1966, he volunteered for duty in Vietnam. On May 18, 1967, Platoon Sergeant Grandstaff was leading a weapons platoon when it came under attack. Despite taking heavy fire from three directions, he raced into the intense fire to aid his men. Surrounded by 700 enemy troops during a 5-hour siege and being wounded in both legs, Platoon Sergeant Grandstaff continued to fight and encourage his men. Realizing that his position was being overrun, he asked for artillery fire on his exact location, knowing full well it would result in his death.

His heroic actions that day immediately saved at least eight of his fellow brethren and saved many others by alerting them of the enemy's bunkered location. At the time of his death, he had already been awarded the Silver Star for courage and valor in battle. For his gallantry that day in May, Platoon Sergeant Grandstaff was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Private First Class Mann and Platoon Sergeant Grandstaff are heroes, willing to sacrifice their own lives in order to protect their fellow soldiers. Their selfless advancement of freedom, liberty, justice, and democracy is truly humbling. I am honored to represent the legacy both men left behind for eastern Washington and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join in honoring these two eastern Washington heroes, Private First Class Joe E. Mann and Platoon Sergeant Bruce A. Grandstaff, and to support H.R. 3197.

Mr. MICHAUD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to offer my support of H.R. 3197, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, the Mann-Grandstaff Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Private First Class Joe Mann served with the 101st Airborne division during World War II. He lost his life in the Netherlands, courageously absorbing the blast of a hand grenade with his body to protect those around him while in battle. Later, in 1954, Private First Class Mann received the Medal of Honor.

Platoon Sergeant Bruce Grandstaff also received the Medal of Honor after his death. Having served in Vietnam, Sergeant Grandstaff found his platoon

surrounded by the enemy near the Cambodia border and crawled through the front lines to save his comrades. Despite his wounds, he was able to notify the U.S. helicopters of their location and valiantly called for artillery in order to prevent the enemy from advancing.

Private First Class Mann and Sergeant Grandstaff went above and beyond the call of duty and made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. It is most appropriate that the VA Medical Center in Spokane be renamed in honor of these two heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I do also want to thank the sponsor of this legislation, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. She's the wife of a retired Navy commander, and she herself has proven to be a strong and steadfast advocate for veterans in Washington and around this country.

I also want to say thanks to my good friend, the new ranking member, MIKE MICHAUD, for his leadership in helping to move this legislation to the floor. He's been an active and valuable member of our committee since his first days in Congress almost a decade ago, and he himself has proven himself time and time again a strong voice for America's veterans.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on H.R. 3197.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3197, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3197.

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. MICHAUD. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

WILLIAM "BILL" KLING VA CLINIC

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6443) to designate the facility of the Department of Veterans

Affairs located at 9800 West Commercial Boulevard in Sunrise, Florida, as the "William 'Bill' Kling VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6443

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

SECTION 1. WILLIAM "BILL" KLING VA CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 9800 West Commercial Boulevard in Sunrise, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "William 'Bill' Kling VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "William 'Bill' Kling VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The legislation before us would name the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Sunrise, Florida, the William "Bill" Kling VA Clinic. William, better known as Bill, served as a Navy radar technician during the Second World War.

When he moved to Plantation, Florida, in 1973, Bill continued his service—this time as an advocate for his fellow veterans. He spent eight years as Florida's Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and twenty-seven years as the President of the Broward County Veterans Council. Bill was also a proud and active member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

In each of those capacities, he worked tirelessly to ensure that the struggles and triumphs of veterans in Broward County, in Florida, and around the county were properly recognized and respected.

He was instrumental in the opening of a VA CBOC in Oakland Park more than two decades ago and, when that facility became unserviceable, played an active role in relocating it to Sunrise.

Thanks in part to his efforts, the Broward County CBOC reopened in Sunrise in 2008 and has been helping to improve the health and daily lives of Broward County veterans each day since.

Today, the entrance to that ninety-eight thousand square foot clinic bears a plaque dedicated to Bill.

Given the leadership he has unquestionably shown on behalf of his fellow veteran Floridians, it is only proper that that facility should now also bear his name.

H.R. 6443 has received the unanimous support of Florida's Congressional delegation and Florida's major veterans service organizations (VSOs).

Among the VSOs who have provided letters of support in favor of this legislation are: the Vietnam Veterans of America Florida State Council, the American Legion Department of

Florida, and the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further speakers, but I do want to reserve the balance of my time so the gentleman from Maine can recognize the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) such time as she may consume.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I thank the gentleman. I thank both gentlemen.

I rise to offer H.R. 6443, a bill that will designate the Department of Veterans Affairs health clinic located at 9800 West Commercial Boulevard in the city of Sunrise, Florida, as the William "Bill" Kling VA Clinic. I offer this bill, along with the entire Florida House delegation, to honor a beloved member of our south Florida veterans' community, William "Bill" Kling, who passed away, sadly, on August 6 at age 84.

My deepest appreciation goes out to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Chairman MILLER, who is a good friend from the great State of Florida, for supporting this effort and helping it to come to the floor.

Bill was a member of our greatest generation of Americans, serving our Nation as a radar technician for the Navy during World War II. But Bill's service to our Nation was far from over when he returned from war. In fact, it was just beginning.

Bill Kling became a national leader and one of the strongest advocates for our Nation's veterans. He was dedicated to helping generations of veterans as they returned to civilian life. He worked tirelessly to make sure our veterans were getting the benefits they deserved, from education under the GI Bill to quality health care through our VA system.

I'm sure my Florida colleagues will agree that Bill was a force to be reckoned with, ever brightening our congressional doorways, pushing the urgency of the issue at hand.

I know we are all grateful for the remarkable legacy he leaves behind, and he will be sorely missed. In particular, my thoughts and prayers go out to Bill's family, including his children, Marsha Mittentag and Steven Kling.

I had the distinct pleasure, Mr. Speaker, of working with Bill for the last 23 years and have witnessed firsthand the many ways he helped thousands of veterans in Florida. I'm also proud to have called him my friend. For the past 7 years, Bill served as the chair of my Military Academy Nominations Board, where he helped the next generation of military leaders realize their dream of serving the country they love.

For 8 years he served on the Florida Commission on Veterans' Affairs, and for the past 27 years, as you've heard, he was the president of the Broward