

War I Victory Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Purple Heart. He also received our Nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor, for his valiant actions in north Africa.

Colonel Demas Craw was a Michigan native and Traverse City resident who served our country with courage. It is only appropriate that the community-based outpatient clinic in Traverse City be named in his honor.

S. 3492 satisfies the committee's naming criteria and is supported by the Michigan congressional delegation as well as numerous veterans organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and the American Legion.

Once again, I am grateful to Congressman BENISHEK for sponsoring the companion to this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

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

I rise today in support of this legislation sponsored by my colleague, Dr. BENISHEK. This bill will name the Traverse City, Michigan, Community-Based Outpatient Clinic the Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic.

Colonel Craw had a distinguished military career. He dropped out of high school to enlist in the Army during World War I. He was furloughed and discharged when the war ended, but he soon reenlisted. After being promoted to corporal, he continued to work to advance in the Army. He earned an appointment to West Point in 1920 and graduated in 1924 as a second lieutenant.

After being assigned to the Army Air Corps, then First Lieutenant Craw served around the world and the United States. Upon entering World War II, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and assigned to north Africa in 1942. On his last mission, Colonel Craw volunteered to approach the French forces to negotiate a ceasefire when Allied forces began their assault.

Colonel Craw earned the Medal of Honor for his actions on his last mission. As the citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty . . . Colonel Craw volunteered to accompany the leading wave of assault boats to the shore and pass through the enemy lines to locate the French commander with a view to suspending hostilities . . . Encountering heavy fire . . . Colonel Craw, accompanied by one officer and one soldier, succeeded in landing on the beach under constant strafing from three enemy planes. Riding toward French headquarters, progress of the party was hindered by fire from U.S. naval guns. Nearing his destination, Colonel Craw was instantly killed by a sustained burst of machine-gun fire at pointblank range from a concealed position near the road.

Not only was Colonel Craw awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions, but the officer accompanying him, Major Pierpont M. Hamilton, who was cap-

tured before ultimately succeeding in suspending the hostilities, was also awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in this mission.

I am honored to support this bill to name the VA facility in Traverse City, Michigan, the Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK), a great friend and colleague.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. ROE.

I rise today in support of legislation to name the Traverse City VA Clinic after Colonel Demas T. Craw, a Medal of Honor recipient from my district in Traverse City.

As I soon will be retiring from Congress, I quickly want to say that it has been quite an honor for me to work with the chairman, JEFF MILLER, and all the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee over the last 6 years. It hasn't been an easy fight, but I believe we have made real progress toward a better VA for the men and women who have fought for our freedom.

This sacred work must continue, as they still deserve much better. I have faith that the next chairman of the committee, my friend, Dr. PHIL ROE, will be able to continue this progress and break new ground in the fight for our Nation's heroes.

I have been very pleased to assist in the effort to honor Colonel Craw in the House, along with a dedicated team of veterans and patriotic citizens. Led by retired Lieutenant Colonel Terry Hawn and Dr. Dan Lathrop, they worked to gather the over 2,000 signatures needed and build support within the community to honor this truly deserving local hero.

Born near Traverse City in 1900, Colonel Craw served in the U.S. Army during both world wars. As a United States Army Air Forces officer in World War II, he served as a U.S. adviser to the Royal Air Force prior to American entry to the war, and was captured and interned by German forces for 6 weeks in 1941.

He was killed in action, described previously, on November 8, 1942, after volunteering to lead a dangerous and, ultimately, successful mission behind enemy lines. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty."

We couldn't have done this without the support of the entire Michigan congressional delegation, as well as the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition, the American Legion Department of Michigan, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Michigan, and many other veteran service organizations.

I want to thank Senator GARY PETERS for introducing the Senate version of this legislation that we are considering today.

I urge my colleagues to help honor this American hero and pass S. 3492.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Before I close, I want to offer a word of praise and affection for my good friend Dr. BENISHEK for his long service to this body and to the committee. I also want to congratulate his intrepidity for saying the word "intrepidity" on the floor of the House.

I am very pleased to support this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in passing S. 3492.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, it is a great privilege for all of us to be here on the floor of this incredible House to speak. We would not be able to do that if it weren't for the heroics of people like Colonel Craw and the sacrifice that he and his family made.

We are entering the Christmas season, and I think about our Armed Forces that are stationed around the world, young men and women today, that are out there protecting our Nation's freedoms and others' freedoms. So it is a great honor—and I think one of the things that I have enjoyed doing the most—naming and hearing about the incredible heroics of some of these men and women that have been before us. I want to encourage all Members to support this legislation wholeheartedly.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3492.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

CHARLES DUNCAN BURIED WITH HONOR ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3076) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish caskets and urns for burial in cemeteries of States and tribal organizations of veterans without next of kin or sufficient resources to provide for caskets or urns, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3076

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Charles Duncan Buried with Honor Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. CASKETS AND URNS FOR BURIAL OF CERTAIN VETERANS IN CEMETERIES OF STATES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 2306(f) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “for burial in a national cemetery of a deceased veteran” and inserting “for burial of a deceased veteran in a national cemetery or in a veterans cemetery of a State or tribal organization for which the Department has provided a grant under section 2408 of this title”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “the burial of the veteran in a national cemetery” and inserting “such burial”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on S. 3076.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to urge all Members to support S. 3076, the Charles Duncan Buried with Honor Act of 2016.

S. 3076, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 20, 2016, would provide indigent families of deceased veterans with more choices as they make the difficult decision about where to lay their loved ones to rest without being financially penalized. This legislation is a practical solution for a common challenge that is faced by too many veterans' families. Dr. Wenstrup, my colleague and a valued member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, has sponsored H.R. 6114, the House companion to this bill.

Under current law, if a family does not have sufficient resources to buy a casket or an urn for a deceased loved one, the VA can provide one if the veteran is buried in a national cemetery, but not if the veteran is buried in a State or a tribal cemetery. However, for some families, interring a veteran in a national cemetery is not always the best option. For example, a national cemetery may be too far away for families to attend burial services or to regularly visit their loved ones.

To better serve the families of all veterans, S. 3076 allows the VA to furnish a casket or an urn if the deceased veteran is laid to rest in a national or in a State or a tribal cemetery. It is appropriate to honor the service of veterans who have passed by providing a casket or an urn regardless of where the veteran is interred.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 3076.

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

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

I rise in support of S. 3076, the Charles Duncan Buried with Honor Act, which expands the cemetery bur-

ial options offered by the VA to the families of financially insolvent veterans and to those with no identifiable next of kin.

I thank my friend, the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee chairman, Dr. Wenstrup, for sponsoring this bill in the House.

We who serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee hear over and over how important it is to the families of many veterans that they be buried near loved ones and near home. This is particularly true in rural areas where the option of burial in a national veterans' cemetery within a manageable travel distance is frequently not an option.

Under current law, indigent veterans and those with no next of kin are eligible for reimbursement rates of \$2,421 for caskets or \$244 for urns when buried in a national cemetery. However, if a State or a tribal cemetery that is supported by grants from the VA is geographically closer to the veteran's home and is preferable to the veteran or to the family, burial there is not currently allowed.

The bill before us today provides that choice by broadening the scope of the Dignified Burial and other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act to include the option of burial in a State or a tribal cemetery for which the Department of Veterans Affairs has provided a grant.

Mr. Speaker, this bill enjoys the support of the American Legion. It makes good sense and ensures that we are doing everything in our power to provide the greatest honor and comfort for veterans and their families. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), an active member of the committee.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3076, the Charles Duncan Buried with Honor Act.

This bill will have a direct and personal impact on the families of many of our veterans. I am pleased that it is being considered today, and I was proud to sponsor the House companion bill, H.R. 6114.

Under current law, if a veteran dies without the resources to pay for a casket, the VA will provide one, but only as long as the veteran is buried in a national cemetery. That means that, in my district and throughout the country, the families in need of this service may be transported to a national cemetery, which is often far from home and far from family. This has caused heartache for many families in my district in Ohio and across the country. It can mean that their loved ones must be buried nowhere near their homes. It can prevent friends and family from attending the funerals or from regularly visiting the grave sites.

S. 3076 would amend current law to allow veterans who receive caskets that are purchased by the VA to be

buried at a State or a tribal cemetery for which the VA has provided a grant. By expanding the burial options available to veterans, we can better ensure that they are laid to rest close to their loved ones. Let's provide this peace of mind to our veterans and their families. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in passing S. 3076.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. I thank the distinguished incoming chairman of the committee. I appreciate the time. I also thank my colleague in the Arkansas delegation, Senator COTTON, for his important work on S. 3076, which we are discussing today. I support it enthusiastically.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, July 25, 2015, U.S. Navy veteran and Little Rock resident Charles Duncan passed away at the age of 66, leaving behind a daughter, three grandsons, three great-grandsons, a brother, and a sister, along with many grieving family members, friends, and loved ones.

Sadly, like too many of our veterans, Mr. DUNCAN was financially insolvent and could not afford the cost of his funeral. Thankfully, he was eligible for essential VA benefits to cover these costs. However, these benefits required that he be buried at the national cemetery in Fort Smith instead of close to his home and his family in Little Rock. By expanding the cemetery burial options that are offered by the VA to our veterans in need, we can provide families with the solace that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and support the peaceful rest of the veterans we have lost.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support S. 3076.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3076.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2017; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BYRNE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-846) on the resolution (H.