

was clear that the large veteran population in our region needed a much larger facility and one run by VA personnel, personnel that understood them and understood their experiences. That was critically important.

Although the road to passing legislation to authorize a new facility was long, in 2017, my legislation was signed into law. This new clinic will be better equipped to deliver high-quality healthcare to a growing community of veterans living in Ventura County and in the area.

Importantly, the new clinic will have VA personnel and will offer expanded services and more specialty care, like dental care, physical therapy, rehabilitation services, optometry, audiology, podiatry, cardiology, and other services.

Getting the new facility open has been my highest priority in Congress, and I am very, very excited that it will be opening next Tuesday, September 27.

I am very grateful for the work of all the dedicated VA personnel in our region, who have been laser focused on getting this new facility opened and hiring all the necessary staff it needs.

□ 1830

Already, the reviews from local veterans who have toured the new facility have been very positive. I am hopeful that as veterans begin to get care at the facility, it will be truly transformative in their lives.

As chair of the Women Veterans Task Force, I am also especially pleased that the new clinic will be one of the first VA clinics in the country, and the very first in the greater Los Angeles area, with a women-only entrance.

Since the Revolutionary War, millions of women have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. However, when they leave the military, they are often invisible, and far too many women leave military service with the scars of military sexual trauma. The women-only entrance will ensure that our women veterans can feel safe and welcomed and, hopefully, never feel discouraged from seeking the care they need.

While opening this clinic has been my highest priority, I also believe that naming the clinic will provide us with yet another opportunity to recognize the service and sacrifice of our women veterans.

Women comprise the fastest growing and most diverse demographic in both the military and veteran populations.

Through my work in Congress, I am constantly reminded that women are the most visible while serving and the most invisible when they return to civilian life. This is symbolized, sadly, by the lack of VA facilities named after women veterans. In fact, of the 1,255 VA healthcare facilities, only two facilities have been named in honor of women veterans—only two.

To address this, I convened a local citizens advisory panel comprised of

veterans and community leaders to select a woman veteran for whom we could name the new clinic, and they selected Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

Captain Mariner, a former resident of Ventura County, joined the Navy in 1973, where she became a member of the Navy's first flight training class for women. In 1974, she was one of six women to earn her wings and, the following year, became the first female naval aviator to fly a jet attack aircraft.

Captain Mariner was named commander of the Naval Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 34 at Naval Air Station Point Mugu in Ventura County, California. The unit was 30 percent female and made Captain Mariner the first woman to command an operational air squadron.

Throughout her career, Captain Mariner was a passionate advocate for women in the military, leading the Women Military Aviators and working with Congress and the Department of Defense to lift restrictions barring women from flying in combat.

I could not be more pleased that the House is taking up my bill to honor Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner.

This bill and this clinic send a critically important message to our women veterans, and that is: We see you.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7698, 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. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7698.

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.

COLONEL CHARLES AND JOANNE POWELL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2771) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2771

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Colonel Charles Powell and his wife, Mrs. JoAnne Powell, served the community of San Angelo, Texas, with character and dignity.

(2) Colonel Powell served as the base commander of Goodfellow Air Force Base from 1980 to 1984.

(3) When the Powells moved to San Angelo, Charles was ordered to help Goodfellow avoid closure and the displacement of many members of the Armed Forces from the community they had grown to love.

(4) The impact of Charles' career can still be felt today at Goodfellow Air Force Base, as it serves as a training school for thousands of members from every Armed Force to train in cryptology, intelligence, and firefighting.

(5) JoAnne assisted thousands of constituents in the district offices of Representatives Tom Loeffler, Lamar Smith, K. Michael Conaway, and August Pfluger.

(6) One of the several duties JoAnne spearheaded was the annual process of nominations to the military service academies, which was always a year-round process for her.

(7) With JoAnne's assistance, many of the young men and women of the 11th congressional district of Texas went on to serve the United States and attend one of the military service academies.

(8) In addition, JoAnne was a fierce advocate of veterans and helped thousands of individuals gain access to the veterans benefits they rightfully earned.

(9) JoAnne's compassion and dedication helped make the Concho Valley a better place.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN SAN ANGELO, TEXAS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 2771.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the lives of Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell, both of whom served the community of San Angelo, Texas, and advocated for veterans for many years.

I thank Senator JOHN CORNYN and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) for putting forward this legislation, which will rename the San Antonio VA clinic in Colonel and Mrs. Powell's honor.

Colonel Powell served as base commander of Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo from 1980 to 1984. He was instrumental in helping to avoid closure of the base, which today serves as a school for thousands of servicemembers training to be cryptologists, intelligence officers, and military firefighters.

Mrs. Powell also lived a life devoted to public service as district manager to four separate Members of Congress. In this role, Mrs. Powell encouraged many young men and women in the 11th Congressional District of Texas to serve in the United States military and helped numerous veterans access the VA benefits they rightfully earned.

S. 2771 and its companion bill, H.R. 4328, are cosponsored by nearly 40 Members of Congress, Democrat and Republican, and the legislation has the support of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans.

Madam Speaker, I include letters of support from these Members and organizations for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We are writing to express our support to name the Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in San Angelo, Texas, the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic".

Colonel Charles Powell served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force and was Commander of the 17th Training Wing at Goodfellow Air Force Base from 1980 until retiring in 1984. Only six months after his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, he married JoAnne, who soon became a force of her own in the military and veterans' communities. Together, they settled in San Angelo for Charles's final assignment at Goodfellow AFB. The two saved Goodfellow from closure and helped the base become a technical training center.

During her husband's two deployments in Vietnam and during his time at Goodfellow, JoAnne revived the Officer Wives Club and started a Christmas Bazaar program that is ongoing today. Additionally, she was an active volunteer for a program that supported MIA and POW families, the Red Cross, and various other charitable causes.

Beyond these acts of service, JoAnne spent 37 years as a district staffer for four Members of Congress in the San Angelo district. She is believed to have provided casework assistance to thousands of service members and veterans and helped hundreds of district students navigate service academy selec-

tions and receive appointments. Although Charles passed away on July 2, 2020, JoAnne upheld Charles' legacy by staying active in the community, eventually being honored as a Lifetime Hero in the community for her contributions to the military community.

On March 24, 2021, JoAnne Powell passed away. Throughout Charles' and JoAnne's life together, they embodied the true meaning of selflessness, patience, and perseverance. The countless hours the Powells dedicated to changing the lives of their neighbors and being a light in their community have left a lasting impact on West Texas. We would be grateful for your support of this effort and hope that the Senate and the House Committees on Veterans' Affairs will give it its prompt consideration.

Sincerely,

John Cornyn, United States Senator; Ted Cruz, United States Senator, August Pfluger, Member of Congress; Louie Gohmert, Member of Congress; Dan Crenshaw, Member of Congress; Van Taylor, Member of Congress; Pat Fallon, Member of Congress; Lance Gooden, Member of Congress; Jake Ellzey, Member of Congress; Lizzie Fletcher, Member of Congress.

Kevin Brady, Member of Congress; Al Green, Member of Congress; Michael T. McCaul, Member of Congress; Kay Granger, Member of Congress; Ronny L. Jackson, Member of Congress; Randy K. Weber, Sr., Member of Congress; Vicente Gonzalez, Member of Congress; Veronica Escobar, Member of Congress; Pete Sessions, Member of Congress; Sheila Jackson Lee, Member of Congress.

Jodey C. Arrington, Member of Congress; Joaquin Castro, Member of Congress; Chip Roy, Member of Congress; Troy E. Nehls, Member of Congress; Tony Gonzales, Member of Congress; Beth Van Duyne, Member of Congress; Roger Williams, Member of Congress; Michael C. Burgess, M.D., Member of Congress; Michael Cloud, Member of Congress; Henry Cuellar, Member of Congress.

Sylvia R. Garcia, Member of Congress; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Member of Congress; John R. Carter, Member of Congress; Colin Z. Allred, Member of Congress; Marc A. Veasey, Member of Congress; Filemon Vela, Member of Congress; Lloyd Doggett, Member of Congress; Brian Babin, D.D.S., Member of Congress.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
Austin, TX, September 23, 2021.

Re Endorsement of re-naming the name of the San Angelo VA Clinic

Rep. AUGUST PFLUGER,
Attn: Meredith Moore,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. PFLUGER: As the State Commander of The American Legion, Department of Texas, I write to you in support of re-naming the San Angelo VA Clinic to the Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic.

The American Legion, the Nation's largest Veterans organization, believes in memorializing and honoring our Veterans, and we can see no better way to honor Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell for their dedicated service to the Community, State, and Nation.

For God and Country,
JAMES "BRET" WATSON,
State Commander.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
July 13, 2021.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: On behalf of the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars, I am honored to extend my support to U.S. Representative August Pfluger's H.R. 4328, to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic in San Angelo, Texas, to the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic".

The Powells were beloved figures in their adopted hometown of San Angelo who devoted a lifetime serving their country and community with honor and dedication. Our hope is memorializing their names on a facility that continues to the veterans they cared so much for, will inspire future generations.

Sincerely,

NORMAN MACEY,
State Commander.

Attest:

DAN WEST,
State Adjutant/Quartermaster.

DAV,
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
Lufkin, TX, June 29, 2021.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
House Committee on Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Ranking Member MIKE BOST,
House Committee on Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN MARK TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER MIKE BOST: On the behalf of Disabled American Veterans, Department of Texas, I am honored to extend my support to the efforts of Congressman August Pfluger and the members of Congress from Texas to rename The Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in San Angelo, Texas, to the Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic".

Colonel Powell was a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and served a distinguished 30 year career in the Air Force, including Commander of Goodfellow Air Base in San Angelo, Texas.

Mrs. Colonel Powell was in the Air Force and was a dedicated Military wife and force in her own right, active in the Officers Wives Club for 30 years. She was a voice for Veterans and served 37 years as District Manager to four members of Congress.

The bill, Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic, would rename the VA Clinic in San Angelo, Texas, to Honor the lives of these two individuals. The Powells were beloved figures in their adopted hometown who spent their lifetime serving their country and community with honor and dedication.

Sincerely,

TERESA JOHNKEN,
Adjutant/Treasurer,
DAV Department of Texas.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I support naming VA's community-based outpatient clinic in San Angelo, Texas, in Colonel Charles and Mrs. JoAnne Powell's honor, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2771. This bill names the VA community-based outpatient clinic, or CBOC, in San Angelo, Texas, after Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell.

Charles Powell graduated from the Naval Academy and went on to spend

three decades in the Air Force. In that time, he deployed twice to Vietnam, served as commander of Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, and eventually attained the rank of colonel.

While not a veteran herself, his wife, JoAnne Powell, was, as the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Texas, put it, a force all her own. During her husband's time as commanding officer of Goodfellow, she revived the Officers Wives Club, started a Christmas bazaar program that continues to this day, supported efforts to prevent the base from closing, and actively volunteered for the local charities and helped families of servicemembers who were prisoners of war or missing in action.

For her efforts, she was honored at the Goodfellow Air Force Base with a lifetime achievement award. JoAnne also spent almost 40 years working for her local Congressmen, helping thousands of servicemembers, veterans, and military families.

This bill fulfills the committee's naming criteria. It has the full support of the Texas congressional delegation, local VSOs, and the veteran community in and around San Angelo.

I particularly recognize the hard work and leadership of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), my friend, and the Senate sponsor of this bill, Senator CORNYN. They have been relentless in their advocacy for the bill so that Charles and JoAnne's incredible legacy will finally receive the recognition it deserves. I thank them both.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill today.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues, the ranking member and the chairman, for bringing this bill to the floor.

I rise today in support of my bill to rename the veterans community-based outpatient clinic in San Angelo, Texas, the Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic.

I cannot think of two people more deserving of this honor than Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell. They are both true American heroes who, for their entire lives, dedicated their service to this country through a distinguished career not only in the U.S. Air Force but later in civilian life when they became two of the most ardent and fervent leaders for military and veterans issues.

They shared a love story not only between themselves but also for this country. Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell met in preschool in Nashville, Arkansas. They graduated high school together, and they were married in 1954 after Charles graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and then joined the Air Force. No matter where Charles' missions took them around the world to different locations, JoAnne was right there, serving alongside him.

Colonel Powell and JoAnne first flew into San Angelo in 1980, and he became the base commander of Goodfellow and JoAnne the honorary first lady. Their mission was daunting, as they were tasked with saving Goodfellow, which was slated for closure. Not only did they immediately spring into action to save the base, but they built a lasting partnership that lasts today between the community and the base, completely converting the base mission into one of a premier intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and fire training installation for every branch of the U.S. military.

After Charles retired, they settled in San Angelo, and their legacy has left over 360,000 graduates from Goodfellow Air Force Base that have joined all branches and all intelligence agencies, including not just the military but the CIA, DIA, FBI, NSA, and more.

Thankfully, their professional service has made this country better, but it is there where they decided to plant their roots and set to work in their community, making it a better place.

In addition to her service as a military spouse, JoAnne Powell gave of herself through immeasurable community involvement on countless boards and civic organizations. Through her 35-year career as a congressional liaison for the 11th District, she worked for Representatives Tom Loeffler, Lamar Smith, Mike Conaway, and, lastly, myself.

She served thousands of veterans in this position. She helped in any way she possibly could. Not only did she spearhead the annual process of nominating young men and women to the service academies, which was a year-round position for both her and Charles Powell, but she also achieved what I think is probably more lasting in helping those cadets and those midshipmen go through the academies, including myself, which was probably her most generous contribution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCHRIER). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, Charles and JoAnne Powell were a perfect team, and they supported one another as they completed their missions of life with flying colors. Together, they raised an exceptional daughter, Terri, and adored their two wonderful grandchildren.

I am thrilled today to be able to honor them, to honor their service, the impact that they had in the Concho Valley, the impact that they had on so many veterans, and the impact that they had on our military with the naming of the Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic.

I thank the chairman and ranking member and the entire Texas delegation and your staffs for helping make this a reality. Obviously, I thank Charles and JoAnne Powell for their

love of this country, which is a legacy that I think all of us could stand to learn from.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, in closing, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 2771, 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. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2771.

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.

□ 1845

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following measures:

S. 3895,
S. 3157; and,
H.R. 1456.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3895) to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2024, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 4, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 438]

YEAS—402

Adams	Allen	Armstrong
Aderholt	Allred	Arrington
Aguilar	Amodei	Auchincloss