

what it means to dedicate your life to serving others.

I thank the sponsor of this bill, my friend from Kansas and the ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator MORAN, as well as the entire Kansas delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 3249, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 3249, a bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, as the Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic.

A member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Elwin Shopteese enlisted in the Kansas National Guard shortly after graduating from high school in 1940. As World War II grew, Mr. Shopteese was mustered into the Army as a corporal and sent to training.

By 1941, Corporal Shopteese was in Europe, where he saw combat in Normandy, northern France, and Rhineland. He fought in the Battle of Omaha Beach, and he saw battle again in the Battle of the Bulge, where his regiment rescued soldiers trapped by German combatants.

Mr. Shopteese was awarded the Bronze Star for his work in connection with military operations against the Nazis near Herne, Germany, in 1945. His courageous actions at Omaha Beach earned him a rare battlefield commission, one of the highest honors that could be bestowed on a combat soldier.

After continuing his military service during the Korean war, Mr. Shopteese left the U.S. Army as a captain. Upon returning home, Captain Shopteese dedicated his life to alcoholism prevention programs, including forming the Indian Community Alcoholism Resources Expeditors Recovery Home to help Native Americans combat alcohol abuse and turn their lives around. He continued his important work as the home's executive director until his passing in 1992.

Naming this clinic in his honor is a fitting way to pay tribute to Captain Shopteese's heroic commitment to the Nation and his service to his community.

Mr. Speaker, I support this important piece of legislation, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 3249 to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, as the Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I once again encourage all of our Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3249.

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. BOST. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### THOMAS H. COREY VA MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7333) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the "Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7333

*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, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in West Palm Beach, Florida, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Thomas H. Corey VA 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 Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 7333.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7333 to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center.

Sergeant Thomas Corey served as a combat infantryman with the U.S. Army and was deployed in Vietnam in May 1967. In January 1968, while fighting in the Tet Offensive, he was hit in the neck by an enemy round. The round hit his spinal cord and left him permanently paralyzed. This wound forced him to be medically retired from the Army in May 1968.

Sergeant Corey received a Bronze Star for valor and two Purple Hearts for his service. As a veteran, Mr. Corey served on many local government and

VA advisory boards, advocating for veterans and disabled veterans. He was a founding member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, West Palm Beach Chapter, later becoming its national president.

Mr. Corey traveled to Vietnam 16 times after the war, representing Vietnam Veterans of America's POW, MIA, and Agent Orange initiatives.

Thomas Corey was described by his friends and family as a shining light, having a positive attitude and a great sense of humor despite the visible scars and challenges he faced as a result of his service to our great Nation. He passed away on June 6, 2022, at the age of 77.

By naming the VA's medical center in his honor, Thomas Corey's service to our Nation and our Nation's veterans community will not be forgotten. I thank the sponsor of the bill, Representative MAST, as well as the entire Florida delegation, who led this effort. I also thank Vietnam Veterans of America for their advocacy for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 7333, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 7333, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center.

A recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, two Purple Hearts, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, a Valorous Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Combat Infantry Badge, Thomas Corey was a decorated combat veteran and a steadfast advocate for his fellow veterans, for his community, and for peace and reconciliation around the world.

A native of Detroit, Mr. Corey was drafted into the United States Army in December 1966. He was deployed in Vietnam as a squad leader in the 1st Cavalry Division, and on the first day of the Tet Offensive, January 31, 1968, while engaged in an assault against enemy positions in the Quang Tri Province, Mr. Corey was shot in the neck and permanently paralyzed. He was medically retired from the U.S. Army in May 1968.

Mr. Corey did not let his injury stop him from working to serve those around him. In 1972, he relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida, where he became a veteran leader and advocate in his local community. Mr. Corey served on advisory boards with his local government, including VA medical centers in Miami and West Palm Beach. In fact, Mr. Corey served over 15 years as an ombudsman and program specialist in the medical center this bill will name in his honor.

Mr. Corey's work went far beyond his home in Florida. He was the founding member of the Palm Beach County

Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He served on the national board of directors for that organization for 20 years, including as secretary, vice president, and president.

In that role, he returned to Vietnam 16 times, leading the initiative to work with his Vietnamese counterparts to create the fullest possible account of those still missing in action from both sides of the war. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of this important work.

As president of the Vietnam Veterans Peace Initiative, Mr. Corey was instrumental in building a maternal health clinic to provide medical support for those dealing with the lasting effects of Agent Orange.

Mr. Corey's lifelong commitment to serving his country and his fellow veterans must be remembered. As he once put it: "It is so important that the country just takes time to take a moment to recognize the sacrifice that the men and women that served our country in defending this Nation. Whether they went off to war or not, they joined the military or were drafted and did their job serving their country because they cared about it. Hopefully, more people will do that, take the time, and let them know and say: Thank you for serving. It is so important."

I can think of no better way to thank Mr. Thomas Corey for his important service than to pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I support this piece of legislation and ask that my colleagues do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and ranking member for recognizing an amazing man. I wish we could do this for every single veteran. Every single veteran deserves far more, but today is a victory, doing it for this veteran.

I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 7333, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center.

I am going to speak about him as a friend because he was a friend. I would say this about him: He exhausted himself in the most worthy cause that he could find, and the most worthy cause that he could find was veterans.

Every veteran that he could find from every conflict, every war, not just his war, but anybody that put a flag on their shoulder, that put on a uniform on behalf of the United States of America, it gave him a sense of joy, a smile. He was a cheerful giver. Whatever he could do for one of our brothers and sisters in arms, that is how he lived his life every day.

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Tom Corey served during the Vietnam war as an Army combat infantry-

man with the 1st Air Cavalry Division, 1st Battalion, and 12th Cavalry.

While engaged in an assault against enemy positions during the first day of the Tet Offensive, he was shot in the neck, leaving him permanently paralyzed.

Although he had injuries for the rest of his life, he did not let his injuries define him. He overcame his injuries to advocate for others in local, regional, and national veterans' organizations every single day going forward during his life.

Tom Corey was a longtime member of Vietnam Veterans of America, founding the Palm Beach County chapter at home in my district. He held multiple leadership roles in organizations, ultimately serving as the president of Vietnam Veterans of America from 2003 to 2005.

Mr. Corey was a tireless advocate for our veterans' healthcare, particularly Vietnam veterans suffering from illnesses attributed to Agent Orange. He worked for 15 years at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center as an ombudsman, ensuring that veterans received the highest quality of care day in and day out.

Despite all of his efforts advocating for veterans here at home, he never forgot his brothers-in-arms who were still missing in action. Mr. Corey returned to Vietnam 16 times leading delegations to meet up with top Vietnamese and Laotian officials focused on locating and repatriating the remains of those he served shoulder to shoulder with.

Along with multiple service medals, including two Purple Hearts, Mr. Corey was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts and his work.

Tom Corey has shown the world that no injury was big enough to eclipse his mission to serve others. Naming the West Palm Beach VA in his honor is the least we can do to honor his legacy of service and his passionate advocacy for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Florida delegation for their support on this effort, and I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I certainly appreciate Congressman MAST bringing to the Nation's attention this great American. I am inspired and I am grateful that we are renaming this facility in Florida in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7333, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this piece of legislation. This is exactly why we name our facilities after those veterans who have served to this level, not only as a veteran and in military service but also in their civilian life.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7333.

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.

#### CHARLIE DOWD VA CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3285) to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, as the "Charlie Dowd VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3285

*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) Charles "Charlie" Arthur Dowd was born on December 23, 1923, in Rochester, New York.

(2) In January 1941, during his senior year of high school, Charlie enlisted for service at sea in the Navy, where he was trained as a radioman and later stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

(3) On December 7, 1941, just after completing a night shift, Charlie and United States Naval forces positioned at Pearl Harbor came under attack by more than 300 enemy aircraft belonging to the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service.

(4) During the attack on the heart of the United States Pacific Fleet, which would severely damage 21 ships and claim the lives of 2,400 Americans, Charlie emerged in only his t-shirt and trousers and sprinted from the barracks to the armory, where he climbed to the roof with a .30-06 Springfield rifle to fire at the Japanese pilots of low-flying torpedo bombers.

(5) Following his bravery at Pearl Harbor, Charlie would go on to continue serving the Navy in both the Solomon Islands and New Guinea, where his fellow shipmates would give him the nickname of "Devil Dog Dowd", for his unwavering willingness to volunteer for the most dangerous mission assignments.

(6) During the course of his service in the Navy, Charlie was awarded seven Bronze Star Medals.

(7) After Charlie received an honorable discharge from the Navy, he returned to the United States, where he worked in masonry and carpentry construction, before completing his degree at the University of Florida. Upon graduation, he spent the next 18 years passing on his knowledge of industrial arts and drafting to high school students.

(8) In 1984, as an avid sportsman with a passion for the outdoors, Charlie later relocated to Anaconda, Montana.

(9) Charlie was a vibrant and cherished member of the local community in Anaconda, where he became the Secretary of the Anaconda Sportsmen's Club and the Outdoor Writer for the Anaconda Leader newspaper.

(10) Charlie was forever an advocate for his fellow veterans and dedicated to preserving the memory of the events of World War II and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Until his dying days, Charlie