

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6963, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lafayette, Louisiana, as the Rodney C. Hamilton Sr. VA Clinic sponsored by Representative HIGGINS.

At just 17 years old, Rodney Hamilton enlisted in the United States Marine Corps out of Lafayette, Louisiana, to serve his country. He would go to serve in the Korean war, where he was wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart. As a fellow marine, I know that the Marine Corps leaves a mark on every man and woman that earns the title.

For Rodney, this sense of duty did not end when he returned home. He came back to Lafayette and continued serving by working to improve the lives of fellow veterans across south-west Louisiana.

He served in Lafayette city government from 1968 to 1972 and later founded the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Action Coalition, giving local veterans a stronger voice and fighting to make sure their needs were met. That advocacy helped lead to one of his most lasting accomplishments, the establishment of the VA clinic in Lafayette.

When the clinic opened in 2016, it brought VA care closer to home for veterans across the region and reflected years of work by Rodney Hamilton and others who believed Lafayette veterans deserved better access to the care they had earned.

Naming this facility in his honor would recognize a marine, a Purple Heart recipient, and a community leader whose work continues to serve veterans today.

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H.R. 6963 is a fitting tribute to Rodney Hamilton, Sr., a man who served his country in war, returned home to serve his community, and never stopped standing up for his fellow veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 6963, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6963 to designate the community-based outpatient clinic in Lafayette, Louisiana, as the Rodney C. Hamilton Sr. VA Clinic.

Rodney Hamilton was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on March 24, 1932. In 1948, his family moved to Lafayette, Louisiana, where he resided for over 70 years until his passing. At just 17 years old, Hamilton joined the Marine Reserve as a member of the Marine Reserve Rifle Corps. He received orders to serve in the Seventh Marine Regiment during the Korean war.

While stationed on the front lines in September 1951, he was wounded by mortar shells and received the Purple Heart for his service. He was reassigned to the First Marine Division's service battalion and was honorably dis-

charged in 1952 with the rank of sergeant.

Back home in Lafayette, Hamilton married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Barbara Webb. The couple have 5 children and 12 grandchildren and were together for nearly seven decades.

Sergeant Hamilton became a leading advocate for his fellow Marines and veterans in the following years. He founded the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Action Coalition, and he was an active member of the Marine Corps League, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and The American Legion.

Sergeant Hamilton's advocacy and leadership were instrumental in establishing the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Lafayette, which opened in 2016 and expanded access to medical care for veterans throughout the region. The road that leads to the facility already bears his name in honor of the tireless work that he put into bringing this clinic into fruition.

Sergeant Hamilton's long record of giving back extended even further through his tireless dedication to his community. He was active in his church and several local organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce and the Beaver Club. From 1968 until 1972, he also served in local government as a trustee for public property.

Rodney Hamilton passed away in 2020 and was buried with full military honors. His legacy is one of advocacy, leadership, compassion, and sacrifice. It is only fitting that we honor his contributions by designating the Lafayette VA clinic in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 6963, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, we are actually naming many clinics. This one in Lafayette, the sponsor, Representative HIGGINS, feels that this is vitally important. With the hecticness around here today, we are hoping that he does make it to make comments on this bill, but we need to move on with our business.

Mr. Speaker, I have no more Members wishing to speak, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 6963 to honor this very deserving veteran, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for allowing me to speak on behalf of an American patriot who was a man amongst men, Mr. Speaker, Rodney C. Hamilton.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6963, which would designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lafayette, Lou-

isiana, as the Rodney C. Hamilton Sr. VA Clinic.

This legislative effort, Mr. Speaker, to honor Mr. Hamilton has been in the making for many years. I am proud and humbled to bring it to the floor on behalf of the Louisiana delegation today.

Rodney C. Hamilton, Sr., joined the United States Marine Corps at 17 years old and served in the Korean war. He was wounded, served honorably, and received the Purple Heart. After serving his Nation in combat, he returned home to Lafayette where he continued to serve those around him, becoming a community leader in Lafayette's city government. He was ordained as a deacon, serving as a member of the First Baptist Church of Youngsville, Louisiana, a community near Lafayette.

Mr. Hamilton was a cofounder of the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Action Coalition, serving as a longtime veterans advocate. This marine, Mr. Hamilton, played an integral role in establishing the Louisiana community-based outpatient clinic, which opened in 2016, and the road leading to the clinic was named in his honor in 2017.

I am joined in support by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, Leader STEVE SCALISE, Representatives LETLOW, CARTER, and FIELDS, and Senators KENNEDY and CASSIDY in support of this legislation honoring Mr. Hamilton.

Louisiana's American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans, and Louisianans across the State have offered their strong support to rename this clinic in honor of Mr. Hamilton.

Passing H.R. 6963 will be to honor an American who did so much for our Nation, our veterans, and the people of Lafayette, Louisiana. Not only will this serve as a tribute to our beautiful Nation but would show this body's resolve to remember and honor all veterans who answered the call to serve our Nation and our communities.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FINE). 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. 6963.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Ferrari, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 801

Whereas Lindsey Olin Graham was born on July 9, 1955, in Central, South Carolina; Whereas Lindsey Graham graduated from D. W. Daniel High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of

South Carolina in 1977, and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1981;

Whereas Lindsey Graham served with distinction in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps, the South Carolina Air National Guard, and the United States Air Force Reserves, attaining the rank of Colonel before retiring after more than 3 decades of military service, and receiving the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal;

Whereas Lindsey Graham served as an Assistant County Attorney for Oconee County, South Carolina, before being elected to the South Carolina, before being elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1992;

Whereas Lindsey Graham was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1994, where he represented the Third Congressional District of South Carolina for 4 terms;

Whereas Lindsey Graham was elected to the United States Senate in 2002 and was subsequently reelected by the people of South Carolina several times to continue representing them with distinction;

Whereas, during this service in the Senate, Lindsey Graham served on numerous committees, including the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on the Budget, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works;

Whereas Lindsey Graham served as Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary during the 116th Congress and as Chairman of the Committee on the Budget during the 119th Congress;

Whereas, throughout his career, Lindsey Graham was a steadfast advocate for the national defense of the United States, the rule of law, the men and women of the Armed Forces, and the people of South Carolina;

Whereas Lindsey Graham earned the respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle through his candor, wit, willingness to engage in difficult debates, and unwavering commitment to public service;

Whereas Lindsey Graham devoted more than 3 decades of his life to serving the people of South Carolina and the United States with honor and distinction;

Whereas the voice of Lindsey Graham carried influence far beyond the halls of Congress, and his steadfast advocacy for the leadership of the United States, a strong national defense, and the cause of freedom earned him the respect of leaders around the world;

Whereas Lindsey Graham was preceded in death by his father, Florence James Graham, and his mother, Millie Walters Graham, whose example of hard work, sacrifice, and perseverance profoundly shaped his life of public service; and

Whereas Lindsey Graham is survived by his sister, Darline Graham Nordone, and a grateful United States that benefited from his faithful service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Lindsey Olin Graham, a Senator from the State of South Carolina;

(2) requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit and enrolled copy thereof to the family of Lindsey Olin Graham; and

(3) stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Lindsey Olin Graham when the Senate adjourns today.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the fol-

lowing title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2120. An act to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2026 through 2030, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to provisions of Public Law 100-702, the Chair on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to the board of the Federal Judicial Center Foundation Board:

Brenna Bird of Iowa.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 115-123, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual as a member of the Commission of Social Impact Partnerships:

Ryan T. E. Martin of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board:

Matt Zabel of Minnesota.

CAPTAIN PAUL W. "BUD" BUCHA VA MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4647) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven, Connecticut, as the "Captain Paul W. 'Bud' Bucha VA Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4647

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 "Captain Paul W. 'Bud' Bucha VA Medical Center Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha was born on August 1, 1943, in Washington, DC.

(2) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha, a recipient of the Medal of Honor and an advocate for veterans, is an American hero.

(3) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha, the son of a colonel in the Army, spent his childhood in California, Germany, Indiana, Japan, and St. Louis, Missouri.

(4) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha turned down several scholarships for both academics and athletics and instead enrolled in the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He went on to be a two-time All-American and captain of the West Point swim team. In 1965, he graduated in the top 5 percent of his class and number two in Military Order of Merit.

(5) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha earned a Masters of Business Administration from Stanford University in 1967, all while completing Airborne and Ranger training between academic years.

(6) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha reported for duty with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to prepare for deployment to Vietnam as part of Operation Eagle Thrust in November 1967.

(7) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha was appointed commander of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment. His company was the last rifle company to be formed during an Army expansion. He jokingly recalled that his recruits were men who had flunked basic infantry tasks, former prisoners, and "guys with master's degrees in Elizabethan literature". He took pride in his company, dubbed the "clerks and jerks". They went on to become one of the most decorated units by the end of the war.

(8) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha distinguished himself with extraordinary heroism while leading 89 men on a reconnaissance mission near Phuoc Vinh, Vietnam, from March 16th through 18th, 1968. As part of the Tet Offensive, his unit was dropped by helicopter and his men set out to repel attacks by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. As the sun set on March 18, 1968, he and his men advanced into a dense jungle and found themselves outgunned by approximately 1,500 enemy troops. Under attack, he crawled 40 yards through the hail of fire and single-handedly destroyed a machine-gun bunker with grenades, all while sustaining a shrapnel wound. He then orchestrated an overnight offensive, directing his men to spread out, throw grenades, and unleash heavy fire. He made the enemy believe they were a much larger force. His leadership led to the defeat of a superior Vietnamese stronghold, leaving 156 enemy dead. Come morning, he guided the medical evacuation of three air-ambulance loads of seriously wounded personnel.

(9) President Richard Nixon presented the Medal of Honor to Paul W. "Bud" Bucha in a ceremony at the White House in 1970.

(10) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha originally wanted to turn down the Medal of Honor because he did not feel deserving. In Vietnam, he asked his men to trust him and, in turn, promised to bring them home safe. 10 of his men were killed on the night of March 18, 1968. Paul W. "Bud" Bucha ultimately accepted the Medal of Honor in their memory, saying it belongs to his men.

(11) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha resigned his Army commission in 1972.

(12) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha was an active member of several veterans service organizations (commonly referred to as "VSOs"), including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. He generously served on the board of directors of Homes for Our Troops, a VSO that builds specially adapted custom homes for severely injured veterans. He also served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training Services at the Department of Labor.

(13) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha used his voice for veterans struggling with mental health. He believed that all veterans, whether they have "4 stars or no stripes, man or woman", would be touched by post-traumatic stress. He used the term "post-traumatic stress" to acknowledge the impact of combat experiences on the mental health of veterans and he intentionally left out the word "disorder" to help destigmatize their struggle.

(14) Paul W. "Bud" Bucha battled post-traumatic stress on his own for 42 years before courageously seeking help at the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven, Connecticut. In the final years of his life, Paul W. "Bud" Bucha also received neurological care at that medical center. His family expressed deep gratitude for the compassionate and skilled care he received, especially recognizing the leadership of Dr. Huned Patwa, Chief of Staff, and Dr. Becky Rhoads, Executive Director. His family also commended the dedicated