

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

neurologists, psychiatrists, and oncologists who supported him as his health declined.

(15) Paul W. “Bud” Bucha spent the last two weeks of his life at the medical center of the Department in West Haven, Connecticut, and passed away from complications of Alzheimer’s disease on July 31, 2024. In his final act of courage and service, he donated his brain to the Center for Human Brain Discovery at Yale University.

**SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF CAPTAIN PAUL W. “BUD” BUCHA VA MEDICAL CENTER.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven, Connecticut, or any successor location for such medical center, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Captain Paul W. ‘Bud’ Bucha Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center” or the “Captain Paul W. ‘Bud’ Bucha VA Medical Center”.

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Captain Paul W. “Bud” Bucha VA Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. CONAWAY) 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.

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. 4647, the Captain Paul W. “Bud” Bucha VA Medical Center Act of 2025, sponsored by Representative DELAURO.

This bill would designate the West Haven VA Medical Center in Connecticut as the Captain Paul W. “Bud” Bucha VA Medical Center.

Captain Paul “Bud” Bucha was an American hero whose life exemplified courage, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to his fellow veterans, both on the battlefield and at home.

After graduating from West Point, Captain Bucha was sent to Vietnam where he commanded his company during an intense recon mission.

In March 1968, Captain Bucha displayed extraordinary courage while leading his company against a larger enemy force.

Under intense fire, he destroyed an enemy bunker, directed the withdrawal of his men, coordinated artillery and air support, evacuated wounded soldiers, and led the recovery of casualties.

□ 1140

For this, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His actions saved countless lives and are a tribute to the highest ideals of military service.

Captain Bucha’s service did not end when he came home. For decades, he

dedicated himself to serving veterans, focusing on those struggling with the invisible wounds of war. After experiencing post-traumatic stress himself, he became one of the Nation’s strongest advocates for getting veterans out of the rut and back to living. He challenged the stigma surrounding mental health care and encouraged countless fellow veterans to seek help.

The West Haven VA Medical Center became an important part of that journey. It was there that Captain Bucha received treatment, continued his advocacy, and ultimately spent his final days. Naming this facility in his honor would ensure that future generations of veterans remember Captain Bucha and his service, not only for his actions in combat, but for what he continued to do for his fellow veterans long after his time in uniform was over.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4647 honors a Medal of Honor recipient, a tireless advocate, and a man whose life was defined by service to others.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4647, 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. 4647 to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Haven, Connecticut, the “Captain Paul W. ‘Bud’ Bucha VA Medical Center.”

I thank my colleagues from Connecticut Senator BLUMENTHAL and Representative DELAURO for their leadership to honor Captain Bucha’s legacy.

Captain Bucha’s dedication to his country exemplifies service. As a young man, he turned down multiple athletic and academic scholarships, choosing, instead, to enroll in the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he was a two-time All-American and captain of the swim team. He graduated in the top 5 percent of his class and number two in the Order of Military Merit.

In 1967, Captain Bucha deployed to Vietnam as part of Operation Eagle Thrust. As commander of Company D, Third Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, he oversaw a motley crew that he lovingly referred to as “clerks and jerks.” They went on to become one of the most decorated units by war’s end.

As part of the Tet Offensive, in March 1968, Captain Bucha and his men were dropped by helicopter to repel attacks by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong. They found themselves outnumbered by 1,500 enemy troops, and Captain Bucha crawled 40 yards through a hail of gunfire and single-handedly destroyed a machine-gun bunker with grenades.

He then spearheaded an overnight offensive, spreading his men out to throw grenades to convince the enemy that they were the ones who were outnumbered.

He was also instrumental in enabling the medical evacuation of three air ambulance loads of his personnel.

For these heroic efforts, Captain Bucha was awarded the Medal of Honor

in 1970. He considered turning it down, feeling undeserving. Ultimately, he accepted, saying that the medal belongs to his men.

After his service, Captain Bucha taught at West Point to help shape the next generation of servicemembers. He also worked with several veterans organizations to advocate for mental health support, job training, and housing for veterans.

Captain Bucha’s connection to the West Haven VA Medical Center is deeply personal. He battled post-traumatic stress disorder for 42 years before courageously seeking help at West Haven, where he received compassionate and skilled care in the final years of his life. He passed away at the medical center in 2024 from complications of Alzheimer’s disease.

I understand that our colleagues in the Senate passed the companion to this bill in their Chamber last August and have been waiting for the House to take it up for almost a year. I am disappointed that we are not considering the already-passed Senate bill today. This House should have passed that Senate bill long ago.

A well-deserving veteran such as Captain Bucha should have been honored as swiftly as possible. I am concerned that by not taking up the Senate version of this bill today, it will only further delay this bill from getting to the President’s desk for signature. Captain Bucha’s friends and loved ones should not have to wait so long to see his legacy honored.

Nevertheless, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I hope that it will become law without delay. I can think of no better way to express gratitude for Captain Bucha’s lifelong commitment to service of his community and his country than to name this VA medical center in his honor. I urge all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee and the author of this legislation.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and grateful for this opportunity to put forward this legislation. It is legislation that honors a man who embodied the highest ideals of service to his country, his fellow soldiers, and his community, Captain Paul W. “Bud” Bucha, a longtime resident of Ridgefield, Connecticut, and a Medal of Honor recipient.

The bill would rename the West Haven Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Haven, Connecticut, where Captain Bucha received care for PTSD after his service and neurological care for Alzheimer’s disease before he passed away on July 31, 2024.

Captain Bucha received the Medal of Honor in 1970 for his heroic service while on Active Duty during the Vietnam war. He distinguished himself with extraordinary heroism while leading 89 men on a reconnaissance mission in Vietnam under heavy enemy fire

from about 1,500 soldiers. He fearlessly directed our defenses, personally destroyed a machine-gun bunker, and sustained a shrapnel wound. Using flashlights in complete view of enemy snipers, Captain Bucha also directed the medical evacuation of three air ambulance loads of seriously wounded personnel.

The captain's dedication to serving others continued after his time in uniform. He served as president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society from 1995 to 1999. He advised President Obama on foreign policy during his 2008 Presidential campaign. He served on the board of directors of Homes For Our Troops, a veteran service organization that builds and donates specially adapted custom homes for severely injured 9/11 veterans. He also served as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment, Training and Employer Outreach Services at the United States Department of Labor.

Even after his death, Captain Bucha's selflessness lives on. His brain was donated to the Center for Human Brain Discovery at Yale University for research.

Naming the West Haven VA Medical Center in his honor is a deserving tribute to a hero who fought for this country. He earned this highest military distinction and then continued to fight for veterans throughout his life.

His legacy, a legacy of courage and compassion, will live on through the care provided to each and every veteran who walks through its doors.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to propose this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it. I hope that we can move it quickly, with the Senate, and bring it to the President for signature.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4647 to honor this very deserving veteran.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all 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, H.R. 4647.

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.

□ 1150

#### CORPORAL PATRICK D. TILLMAN VA CLINIC

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4288) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in San Jose, California, as the "Corporal Patrick D. Tillman VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4288

*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) Patrick "Pat" Daniel Tillman was born on November 6, 1976, in San Jose, California.

(2) From 1990 to 1994, Pat attended Leland High School in San Jose, California, where he subsequently helped lead his team to a Central Coast Division I Football Championship. Shortly thereafter, Pat was offered a scholarship to and played football for the Arizona State University Sun Devils. While there, he led Arizona State to the 1997 Rose Bowl after an undefeated season, earned three consecutive selections to the Pac-10 All-Academic Football Team, a 1st team Academic All-American honor, as well as the NCAA's Post-Graduate Scholarship for academic and athletic excellence.

(3) Upon graduating college, Pat Tillman was selected in the 7th round of the 1998 NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals.

(4) In July of 2002, less than 1 year after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Pat chose to suspend a lucrative career in the NFL to join the U.S. Army alongside his brother, Kevin.

(5) Pat and Kevin were subsequently assigned to the second battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment in Fort Lewis, Washington. As an Army Ranger, Pat deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004.

(6) On April 22, 2004, Pat Tillman was killed by gunfire while on patrol in a rugged area of eastern Afghanistan.

(7) Further investigation and subsequent reporting confirmed Tillman was killed via fratricide as he attempted to provide cover for fellow soldiers as they endeavored to escape from a canyon wherein they were trapped.

(8) Pat Tillman is undeniably known as a national hero, was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals, and was posthumously promoted to corporal.

#### SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA.

The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Jose, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Corporal Patrick D. Tillman Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Pat Tillman VA Clinic". Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such community-based outpatient clinic shall be considered to be a reference to the "Corporal Patrick D. Tillman Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Pat Tillman VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. CONAWAY) 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. 4288.

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. 4288, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in San Jose, California, as the "Corporal Patrick D. Tillman VA Clinic," sponsored by Representative PANETTA.

Pat Tillman was born and raised in San Jose, California. He first made his name on the football field at Leland High School, helping lead his team to a Central Coast Division I championship.

He carried that same drive and determination to Arizona State University, where he excelled both as a student and as an athlete.

Mr. Speaker, after being drafted by the Arizona Cardinals in 1998, by 2000, Pat had become the team's star safety. He had achieved what so many young athletes dreamed of. He was playing in the NFL. He had a successful career ahead of him and could have made millions of dollars by continuing to play professional football.

Yet, after the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, Pat Tillman made a different choice. When his country needed him, Pat answered the call. He put the needs of his country above his own dreams, above his own career, and above the life of comfort and success that he already earned.

Mr. Speaker, that is the definition of an American hero. When terrorists struck the Twin Towers, Pat, like so many other Americans, ran toward the fight.

Pat once said: "A lot of my family has . . . gone and fought in wars. And I really haven't done a damned thing as far as laying myself on the line like that, and so I have a great deal of respect for those that have and what the flag stands for."

Those were not empty words. In 2002, Pat enlisted in the United States Army. He served with the 75th Ranger Regiment. During his second deployment—I will say that again—his second deployment, while serving in Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Pat's unit came under attack.

Pat died in action while providing cover for his fellow soldiers. Because of his courage, his fellow soldiers were able to escape danger.

For his bravery and sacrifice, Pat was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4288 is a fitting tribute to Pat Tillman, a son of San Jose, a professional athlete, an Army Ranger, and an American hero who gave up fame and fortune to serve the country he loved.

By naming the VA clinic after him, we would ensure that his story of courage, service, and sacrifice will continue for decades. Those of us who can remember Pat Tillman and remember what an amazing thing he did, to leave a career as a professional football player to serve this Nation and the flag