

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1341

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston, Texas, as the “Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston, Texas, as the “Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) Dr. Michael E. DeBakey played a critical
6 role in establishing and developing the Department
7 of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston,
8 Texas. He has successfully elevated its professional
9 staff and quality healthcare to meet high standards

1 of excellence and encouraged minorities to fulfill
2 their potential in education, and particularly in the
3 health professions.

4 (2) Dr. DeBakey's dedication to the Depart-
5 ment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center is ongoing.
6 He is still chairman of the Dean's Committee of that
7 medical center, as he has been since the beginning
8 of that institution.

9 (3) Dr. DeBakey brought both the City of
10 Houston and the State of Texas international rec-
11 ognition for the Texas Medical Center through his
12 pioneering of medical research, his leadership at
13 Baylor College of Medicine, his national and inter-
14 national medical statesmanship, and his cham-
15 pioning of the rights and the welfare of the under-
16 privileged.

17 (4) Dr. DeBakey is credited with the develop-
18 ment of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals
19 (MASH) concepts for the military, which led to sav-
20 ing thousands of lives during the Korean and Viet-
21 nam conflicts, as well as the development of special-
22 ized medical and surgical center systems in order to
23 treat returning military personnel.

24 (5) During World War II, Dr. DeBakey served
25 as a colonel in the United States Army and was as-

1 signed to the Surgical Consultant Division in the of-
2 fice of the Surgeon General. His active duty service
3 was from 1942 to 1946. He remained on active duty
4 in 1946 and recruited 100 additional specialists to
5 care for World War II wounded military personnel
6 in Army specialty centers.

7 (6) For his service in the Armed Forces, Dr.
8 DeBakey received the Legion of Merit.

9 **SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
10 **MEDICAL CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS.**

11 (a) NAME.—The Department of Veterans Affairs
12 Medical Center in Houston, Texas, shall after the date of
13 the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the
14 “Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs
15 Medical Center”.

16 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
17 tion, map, document, record, or other paper of the United
18 States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a)
19 shall be considered to be a reference to the Michael E.
20 DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

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