

General of the Armies John J. Pershing labeled the 28th Infantry Division the Iron Division.

During the Second World War, the division fought some of the fiercest battles in the European theater. Perhaps most notably during the Battle of the Bulge, the 28th Infantry Division held its ground against overwhelming German forces until Allied reinforcements arrived. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten, and the importance of their victory as a turning point in World War II remains etched in the history of this division.

Today, the 28th Infantry Division is an active National Guard division, with armories in towns and cities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Soldiers of the 28th Infantry Division have served and are currently serving abroad in Iraq and Afghanistan, and were also recently deployed in Bosnia and Kosovo as part of the NATO peacekeeping missions. Since September 11, over 10,000 soldiers of the division have deployed overseas.

The men and women of the 28th Infantry Division serve their community selflessly while balancing full-time careers and families. Through the years, their names and faces have changed, but the commitment and the dedication with which they serve our Nation remains the hallmark of the 28th Infantry Division.

So I am very proud to join my colleagues in honoring these men and women, past and present, and to express my sincere gratitude for their sacrifice to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Nation. And I urge my colleagues to vote for the adoption of this resolution that recognizes our citizen soldiers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 390, as amended, which honors the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States of America.

I am honored to pay tribute to the current and former members of the 28th Infantry Division, the Keystone Division, who have steadfastly and courageously defended and served this great country on our own shores and in distant lands.

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With roots that date back to the Continental Army, the 28th Infantry Division fought valiantly in several campaigns during World War I, earning the title "Iron Division" from General John J. Pershing.

Again, during World War II, victory was won in hard-fought battles in places like the Huertgen Forest on the western front and in the Battle of the Bulge because of the tenacity and the perseverance of the brave soldiers of the 28th Infantry Division. These battles earned them another title, Bloody Buckets, this time given to them by

German forces because of the fury of the 28th Infantry Division assaults.

More recently, the 28th Infantry Division has participated in Operation Desert Storm, deployed troops to oust the Taliban in Afghanistan, and has played a vital role in the successes of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Closer to home, Mr. Speaker, the Division has responded in the aftermath of natural disasters to provide aid and comfort to fellow Americans during hurricanes, blizzards and devastating floods.

It is important to note that the soldiers of the Division have distinguished themselves by earning 10 Medals of Honor, four Legions of Merit, and 258 Silver Stars for their outstanding service to the Nation.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the valiant service of the 28th Infantry Division has not come without enormous sacrifice. Throughout its history, the members of the Division have paid the price to ensure our freedom. Still today there are over 2,600 soldiers from the 28th Infantry Division missing in action in both world wars of the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, if I did not also pay tribute today to the incredible families of these brave soldiers, who waited at home while their loved ones answered our Nation's call, I would be remiss. The entire Nation owes the soldiers and veterans of the 28th Infantry Division and their families a debt of gratitude. We are all proud of their service. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few brief remarks on the issue of energy because we seem to discuss that. And I have no further speakers at that point and I will be prepared to yield back to my friend from Guam.

Mr. Speaker, I think today in the discussion of three bills we've seen a terrifically orderly process of cooperation between the two sides as we have come together to honor and recognize Americans who have distinguished themselves in service to our country and in service to one another. And it's been a process that I think ought to epitomize all of our openings. Our problem, unfortunately, is we don't always have that process in this House.

We've known for many, many years that we had a very serious energy crisis. I believe former Secretary of the Treasury, John Connelly, first pointed that out as long ago as 1970 when we were importing about 24 percent of petroleum from overseas. Former President Carter called it the moral equivalent of war that we confront and deal with this crisis in the late 1970s. And there certainly have been fitful efforts by both sides of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, to try and come to grips with this problem over the years, but we all know we have not done it successfully.

And I think perhaps that's because we have not done it together.

I would point to the efforts of two of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Mr. ABERCROMBIE from Hawaii and Mr. PETERSON from Pennsylvania, who have tried to work together to formulate a bipartisan solution to parts of this vexing problem as an example that all of us on both sides ought to follow, Mr. Speaker. I think if we did, we would do better. And I think we could come up with legislation that would genuinely make a difference because nothing is more important, aside from our physical security, than our economic security. And I think we all recognize we're at the point, Mr. Speaker, that that security is threatened by an overdependence on foreign energy.

We can go a long way, we can do a lot together. Sometimes when we work together we do do extraordinary things. So I would challenge the House that in the coming week, when we discuss this important issue, that that's, indeed, how we proceed, we bring bills to the floor, we have open debate, and we try to find common ground with one another.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, again I would like to go on record to thank my co-manager of the bill, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 390, as amended.

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. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CELEBRATING THE 120-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND STATE VETERANS HOMES

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1335) celebrating the 120-year partnership between the Government and State veterans homes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1335

Whereas the primary mission of the National Association of State Veterans Homes

is to ensure that each veteran receives the benefits, services, long-term health care, and respect each veteran deserves;

Whereas other goals of the National Association of State Veterans Homes are to ensure that no veteran is in need or distress and that the level of care and services provided by State homes is of the highest quality;

Whereas the year 2008 marks the 120th anniversary of the first time the Federal Government granted aid to States that had established State veterans homes;

Whereas following the Civil War, a large number of indigent and disabled veterans were no longer able to earn their own livelihood and were in need of assistance;

Whereas after the Civil War, because the Government was unable to completely meet the needs of this class of veterans, a number of States established State veterans homes;

Whereas the first State home was established in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, in 1864;

Whereas on August 7, 1888, Federal aid was authorized for the first time to alleviate the burden of States in operating these homes;

Whereas the Veterans Administration was established in 1930, which led to an expansion of State programs to include three levels of care and increased per diem payments;

Whereas in 1952, the National Association of State Veterans Homes was founded because of the collective need of all State homes to communicate with one another about the problems they faced and their experiences as well as to promote their interests in national legislation;

Whereas in 1964, the State Home Construction Grant Program was initiated, which has greatly increased the ability of State homes to meet the increasing needs of veterans;

Whereas on February 24, 1986, the Veterans Administration and the National Association of State Veterans Homes signed a Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing their mutual goal of providing quality care to veterans;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to participate in up to 65 percent of the cost of construction or acquisition of State nursing homes or domiciliaries or for renovations to existing State homes;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs works to assure Congress that State homes are both financially equipped and institutionally competent to provide quality care to veterans through inspections, audits, and comparing records conducted by the VA medical center of jurisdiction;

Whereas State veterans homes are currently one of the largest long-term care providers in the United States;

Whereas in a typical year, State homes will provide veterans with nearly 7 million days of nursing home care and about 1.5 million days of domiciliary care;

Whereas currently, there are 135 State homes throughout the United States with more than 30,000 beds, which will only increase in the coming years; and

Whereas a total of \$165,000,000 has been appropriated for State homes capital projects in 2008: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the extraordinary contributions of those who have served in the Armed Forces of the Nation;

(2) recognizes that the Nation has an affirmative duty to care for the men and women of the Armed Forces who have served their country faithfully;

(3) recognizes the efforts made by the National Association of State Veterans Homes to aid the States in providing veterans with high-quality care; and

(4) commends the efforts made by State veterans homes for the past 120 years in ensuring that the honorable veterans of the Armed Forces of this Nation receive the highest quality of care worthy of the great sacrifices they have made.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman PAUL HODES of New Hampshire for crafting this resolution which calls for the celebration of the 120th anniversary of our Federal Government's first grant of aid to State veterans homes.

I would also like to recognize the National Association of State Veterans Homes, representing 135 State veterans homes throughout the country. They were founded to increase the State veterans home representation and help facilitate communication with one another. They have worked to improve the quality of care, the services and treatment of our Nation's veterans who reside in State veterans homes.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to contribute up to two-thirds of the construction of State nursing homes or renovations of existing State homes. This funding helps provide quality care for our Nation's veterans. When veterans are no longer able to care for themselves, they must be given the care necessary to continue their life with dignity.

Recently, we appropriated \$165 million for 2008 to provide aid to State veterans homes to continue to provide care for our veterans. This will help alleviate some of the financial burden as the cost of veterans' care continues to rise without compromising the quality of that care.

Mr. Speaker, we must honor a servicemember's sacrifice that has been made by providing the quality of care our brave men and women deserve. It is important that we all support this resolution. With the current war on terror, there are thousands of brave servicemembers that are in the line of fire as we speak. They, too, might need this care. It is our duty, our responsibility, and our moral obligation to continue to provide them with this care.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in support of this resolution. I praise the great work and service that State veterans homes have provided for the past 120 years. I look forward to their continued success and for this strong partnership to continue for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I have a State veterans home in my district in Chula Vista, California. I visit there regularly. The morale there is very high. And I think probably one sign of their high morale is that the percentage of voting that comes out of that home is very, very high. So it shows that, not only are

they cared for, but they take an interest in the government that they have to elect. So I ask that my colleagues join me in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I'm also pleased to be here in support of this bill, H. Res. 1335, a resolution celebrating a 120-year partnership between the Federal Government and the State veterans homes.

My colleagues, following the Civil War, a number of States independently established State veterans homes in order to meet the large needs of the veterans that were indigent, a lot of them were disabled. They returned from the war, but they were unable to establish a livelihood for themselves, earn enough money. They needed care. And these were veterans who sacrificed their lives in support of their country and were severely disabled and in need of help.

While the Federal Government operated national homes for disabled Union soldiers, the total number of veterans needing care was simply overwhelmingly. So in August, 1888, Federal sharing was formally authorized to help alleviate the burden that was placed upon the States. In 1952, the National Association of State Veterans Homes was established to help move this along. Their primary mission is to ensure that each and every eligible United States veteran receives the benefits, services, long-term health care and respect which they have earned in their service to their country and their sacrifice for our country.

Working through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the organization also ensures that no veteran is in need or distress, and that the level of care and service provided by State veterans homes meet or exceed the highest standards we have in our health care system today.

Today, State veterans homes are one of the largest long-term providers in this country. In the State of Florida, for example, we currently have six State veterans nursing homes. We expect another one to open in St. Augustine in 2009. This is important because Florida is a State with ever-increasing veterans coming in, and we need to provide for them.

There are currently 135 State veterans homes throughout the United States with more than 30,000 total beds. The service these organizations provide to our Nation's veterans is obviously invaluable. And I commend the State veterans homes on their 120-year partnership with the government to provide care to our veterans community with a very high standard.

I urge my colleagues to support this wonderful bill.

Mr. HODES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important partnership between State Veterans Homes and the Federal Government during its 120th anniversary.

State Veterans Homes are important long-term care providers for veterans. State Homes

provide quality health care for elderly and disabled veterans across the country.

State Veterans Homes are one of the largest long-term care providers in the United States. There are 135 State Veterans Homes throughout the United States with more than 30,000 total beds. In a typical year, State Veterans Homes will furnish nearly 7 million days of nursing home care and about 1.5 million days of domiciliary care. These numbers continue to grow in order to meet the needs of our Nation's veterans.

State Veterans Homes began after the Civil War, when a large number of indigent and disabled veterans were no longer able to earn their own livelihood and needed care. 2008 marks the 120th anniversary of the State and Federal partnership in providing quality care for veterans in the State Veterans Homes.

The State Veterans Homes try to ensure that each and every eligible U.S. veteran receives the benefits, services, long term health care and respect which they have earned by their service and sacrifice.

I had the honor of visiting with veterans at the State Veterans Home in Tilton, New Hampshire. Under the dedicated leadership of Commandant Barry Conway, New Hampshire veterans have a place to receive top quality long term care in a community of fellow veterans.

The Veterans Home in Tilton has provided Concord native Dave Clark with top-quality health care. Dave is a disabled veteran with a can-do attitude, wheeling around the Veterans Home in his electric wheelchair, with a State of New Hampshire veteran's license plate that says "GROOVY."

Dave was born on September 28, 1945 in Concord, NH. He lived with his parents, his sister, and his three brothers for the first six years of his life, until his parents separated. Dave's sister was adopted, but he and his brothers spent the next 3½ years at an orphanage in Manchester. Dave was in and out of foster homes, dreaming of becoming an astronaut or attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dave changed his course when he was called up to serve his country in the U.S. Army. Dave honorably and bravely served, spending 2 years in the States before deploying to Vietnam.

In Vietnam, Dave's vehicle was hit by enemy fire and the troops he was carrying were killed. Dave joined a small group of Marines in a firefight, and he was hit. Four of the Marines carried him to an aid station—and Dave credits these courageous Marines for saving his life. Dave was badly injured, and then spent the next 2 years in hospitals in Seattle, WA, Washington, DC, Fort Dix, NJ, and Manchester, NH.

Dave recovered, and restarted his life in New Hampshire. Dave met and married his wife Doris, with whom he lived in Penacook, New Hampshire until Doris's death. Dave worked at Franklin Regional Hospital as a crew leader in the Environmental Services Department, continuing to serve his State and his country with honor.

His new life was interrupted in March of this year when he had another stroke, leaving him paralyzed on his left side. Dave could only move his neck and his head. Dave thought he was finished after the last stroke. Dave was overwhelmed with terrible memories of the orphanage and frustrated that once again he was losing his independence.

But when Ellen Douville from the New Hampshire Veterans Home Admissions Office came to visit, Dave realized the Veterans Home could give him the support he needed. The Tilton Veterans Home's staff and residents helped Dave regain mobility in his left arm and taught Dave to control a wheelchair with his chin. After 7 months, Dave was kicking a beach ball around in "Move It or Lose It," an exercise program for residents.

Dave is active in the Writing Group and art classes and is vice-president of the Resident Council at the Tilton Veterans Home. He has a girlfriend, Mary Tucker, who works for another healthcare organization, and this week the Veterans Home van took him to Applebee's, where he and Mary had a lunch date.

Dave says that coming to the Tilton Veterans Home has been the best thing for him. But, Dave continues to be determined to get back the full use of his left side again. After he regains the use of his left side, he plans leaving the Tilton Veterans Home and marrying his girlfriend Mary in the Veterans Home gazebo down by the pond—where everyone from the State Home will be invited.

This resolution honors the contribution of veterans like Dave to his country, and recognizes the leaders and staff of the Veterans Homes, like Barry Conway and Ellen Douville, who spend each and every day with patience, friendship, and care for veterans like Dave.

I am proud to honor the contributions of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces and recognize that we as a Nation have a duty to serve those who have served our country faithfully.

And I am proud to honor veterans like Dave and the hard working community of the Tilton Veterans Home, and State Veterans Homes across the Nation.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1335, introduced by my friend and colleague Mr. HODES, which rightly celebrates the 120-year partnership between Government and State veterans homes.

State Veterans Homes are a critical part of the care our veterans receive after serving our country. In my State of Connecticut, the State Department of Veterans Affairs has provided care for Veterans and their dependents for 144 years, since the opening of Fitch's Home for Soldiers and Their Orphans in Darien, Connecticut on July 4, 1864—the first such facility in the Nation. In 1940, the Fitch home became the Connecticut State Veterans hospital and was relocated to Rocky Hill, Connecticut, where Connecticut veterans today continue to receive a spectrum of care and assistance they so urgently need from dedicated professionals and volunteers.

In just a few weeks, Connecticut veterans will benefit from the opening of the first major new facility in Rocky Hill in over 65 years. The new veterans care facility will provide modern, state of the art care for Alzheimer's and hospice patients. From the new rooms that provide patients with long-needed privacy, to expanded lounge areas and family dining facilities that allow veterans to spend time with their families in a private and comfortable setting, the new facility will ensure that Connecticut veterans receive the dignified treatment they deserve. This exciting improvement was made possible by a strong Federal commitment to the State Home Construction Grant Program, which for 44 years has helped

States like Connecticut meet the ever-increasing needs of our veterans by investing in long-term capital improvement projects.

I had the honor of visiting the Rocky Hill facility just this past weekend, where I attended Stand Down 2008. This one-day event is an annual outreach and support program that helps needy and homeless veterans to receive services and information from over 30 State, Federal and private organizations all assembled in one location. During my visit, I observed countless volunteers from organization across the State helping needy and struggling veterans receive a variety of services, including medical screenings, dental exams, legal assistance, housing referrals, assistance with Federal VA benefits and disability claims, job counseling and training, financial assistance and debt counseling; education programs and services and everyday necessities such as free haircuts, clothing and supplies.

At last year's Stand Down, 750 needy veterans came to Rocky Hill to receive assistance. This year, that number is expected to reach 900 or more, an increase largely fueled by the growing needs of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the impact of the economic downturn on our neediest veterans. Our State Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Linda Schwartz, has helped bring new life into this yearly event, making it an effective way to ensure that veterans have access to the services and care they need. Under her leadership, Connecticut is stepping up to ensure that no veteran who has served their Nation is left behind. Yet, as gratifying as it was to see veterans being helped at Stand Down, the growth in the number of veterans taking advantage of the event is a stark reminder of how much more our Nation must do to ensure that our promise to those who have served is fulfilled.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking the countless professionals at the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, volunteers and organizations that came together at Connecticut's Stand Down in helping to make a difference in the lives of our veterans.

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. I ask unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker, that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1335.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. 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 California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1335.

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. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEMENT C. VAN WAGONER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2339) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2339

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

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEMENT C. VAN WAGONER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs clinic located in Alpena, Michigan, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the brave service of LTC Clement C. Van Wagoner.

LTC Van Wagoner was Michigan's most highly decorated veteran in World War II, earning, amongst other honors, the Combat Infantry Badge, seven Bronze Stars, four Silver Stars, and five Purple Hearts.

The awarding of the Combat Infantry Badge reflects the valor of those brave men and women who serve on the front lines in defense of our Nation. The Bronze Star is the fourth highest combat decoration that can be awarded by the U.S. Armed Forces and is given for acts of heroism or meritorious achievement. The Silver Star is awarded for acts of gallantry that have been performed with marked distinction in line of duty. And the Purple Heart, of course, is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who have been injured or killed while serving our Nation. LTC Van Wagoner's attainment of these decorations, some of the highest our country has to bestow, is indicative of

the highly courageous manner in which he served.

On D-day, June 6, 1944, LTC Van Wagoner landed on Omaha Beach, along with 1,800 of his fellow members of the 1st Infantry Division, and came away as only one of 32 survivors.

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The courage to fight on in the face of such peril speaks volumes about the strength of character LTC Van Wagoner possessed.

In the fall of 1944, while then a lieutenant, Van Wagoner served in Germany and participated in the battle for the city of Aachen as part of Company A of the 1st Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division. The battle required a fight for the heavily defended "Crucifix Hill" which was riddled with German pillboxes. As the executive officer of Company A, LTC Van Wagoner by all accounts kept his company well organized and was instrumental in the 1st Infantry taking "Crucifix Hill" despite suffering many casualties. All told, LTC Van Wagoner was in combat for 600 days and was wounded on five separate occasions.

Following the end of the Second World War, he continued to give of himself for his country by commanding a battalion of the Michigan National Guard until his retirement in 1967.

His record of accomplishments should be a reminder to us all of the heroic personal sacrifices that have been made by great Americans in the service of our Nation. That is why it is with great pleasure I bring S. 2339 to the floor today to name the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs new Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Alpena, Michigan, in honor of LTC Van Wagoner.

The Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic, as it will be designated, will help to improve the lives of North Michigan veterans by allowing them to receive health services locally in their community.

Having passed away last spring at the age of 93, it is a fitting tribute for Michigan's most decorated soldier to have the new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic designated in recognition of his valiant service.

I thank my colleagues and especially Congressman STUPAK of Michigan and Senators STABENOW and LEVIN of Michigan for introducing this important legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I also with my colleague from California rise in support of Senate bill 2339, a bill that was brought out recently to designate the Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Alpena, Michigan as the Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Veterans Affairs Clinic.

As pointed out by Dr. Filner, this is a very exceptional individual. Serving in the Army during World War II, LTC

Van Wagoner was in combat for 600 days. He was severely wounded on five different occasions and was only one of 32 survivors of the 1,800 soldiers who landed with the 1st Infantry Division at Omaha Beach on D-day. And many of us in this body have been to Omaha Beach. I was there in the 50th anniversary and saw the number of graves there and saw the arduous task involved. And we saw the film that also showed the amount of work, the number of people that fought and the people who survived. And this is one of them.

LTC Van Wagoner continued to serve his country even after World War II in the Michigan National Guard until he retired in 1967. Now, among the honors he received for his service was the Combat Infantry Badge. That is saying something for him right there. But he also received seven Bronze Stars, seven, four Silver Stars, and obviously five Purple Hearts because being in combat for 600 days and continuing to serve his country, it is not altogether surprising that he would continue to be wounded. So this is an extraordinary individual. And this bill before us today is naming this clinic after him.

I would say to my colleague from California, perhaps in the future, under our Veterans' Affairs Committee's rules for bipartisan naming policy for facilities, it would appear that next year we perhaps should reorganize the committee for the 111th Congress and revisit the naming policy, because obviously I think this person should be named under it, but I think under the strict guidelines we've established, it is not quite clear that this would be a naming facility for him. But under the circumstances, this fellow is very well qualified. I would just remind the chairman that we need to do that.

Mr. Speaker, our actions to approve this bill today will send it to the White House for signature. I urge my colleagues to approve this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to yield back.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2339.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. 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. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2339. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.