

Mount Olive, Ohio. During the Vietnam war, Specialist Kinnard served with distinction in the 101st Airborne, the famed Screaming Eagles. On March 9, 1968, he was tragically killed in action while rendering aid to his fellow paratroopers.

During the course of his service, Specialist Kinnard was awarded the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Combat Medical Badge.

Given his valiant service and his ultimate sacrifice, it is only appropriate that we gather here today to recognize him by naming the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Ohio, his home State, after him.

H.R. 960, as amended, satisfies our committee's criteria for naming bills and is supported by the Ohio congressional delegation and a number of veterans service organizations, including the AMVETS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of Purple Heart.

I am grateful to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI), my good friend, for sponsoring this legislation. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 960, as amended, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Newark, Ohio, as the Daniel L. Kinnard Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

Specialist Kinnard served in the Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, the 101st Airborne Division, better known as the Screaming Eagles. As a Vietnam medic, he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor in 1968 for dodging enemy bullets to reach two wounded men and providing first aid while remaining exposed to enemy fire.

Specialist Kinnard died at the age of 18 in March 1968 while providing care to fellow paratroopers. In addition to the Bronze Star, he was awarded numerous other medals.

Specialist Kinnard made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country in the Vietnam war. We are grateful to Specialist Kinnard for acting with courage and dignity in looking after his brothers in combat.

I am pleased to support H.R. 960, as amended, in his memory today.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Galena, Ohio (Mr. TIBERI), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MILLER and his committee members for supporting my bill, H.R. 960, to designate the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Newark,

Ohio, as the Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic.

Born in Knox County and a resident of Newark, Specialist Daniel Kinnard served bravely as a medic in the 101st Army Airborne Division, the famed Screaming Eagles, during the Vietnam war.

On February 17, 1968, he rushed through hostile enemy fire to treat and rescue wounded soldiers. For his bravery, as was mentioned, and his heroism on that day, he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor. Twenty-one short days later, Specialist Kinnard was killed in action rendering aid to his fellow paratroopers. He was just 18 years old.

Mr. Speaker, next Monday is Memorial Day, a time we pause to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our great Nation. Today I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 960 to honor Specialist Kinnard and those who served courageously beside him and rename this clinic in the 12th District Ohio town of Newark, Ohio.

I appreciate the leadership of our chairman and the committee's work on this.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our Vietnam veterans. When they came home from the war, we did not properly recognize them, as we should have, as a Nation. I want to say that we are very grateful for their service and their sacrifice.

When we hear that 22 veterans a day commit suicide, only three of five of them are involved in the VA, and many of them are Vietnam veterans. At this time, I think that we all should soldier up, reach out to those Vietnam veterans, let them know that we appreciate their service, and recommend that they get involved in the VA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 960, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks of the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), my colleague, the ranking member. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation as well.

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 Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 960, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Newark, Ohio, as the Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 2460) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2460

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

SECTION 1. PROVISION OF ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1745 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) The Secretary shall enter into an agreement under section 1720(c)(1) of this title or a contract with each State home for payment by the Secretary for adult day health care provided to a veteran who is eligible for, but does not receive, nursing home care pursuant to subsection (a).

“(2) Payment under each agreement or contract between the Secretary and a State home under paragraph (1) for each veteran who receives care under such paragraph shall be made at a rate that is equal to 65 percent of the payment that the Secretary would pay to the State home pursuant to subsection (a)(2) if the veteran received nursing home care under subsection (a) rather than under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

“(3) Payment by the Secretary under paragraph (1) to a State home for adult day health care provided to a veteran described in that paragraph constitutes payment in full to the State home for such care furnished to that veteran.”; and

(2) in the heading, by inserting “, adult day health care,” after “home care”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1745 and inserting the following new item:

“1745. Nursing home care, adult day health care, and medications for veterans with service-connected disabilities.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in support of H.R. 2460. The bill is sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, and the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. I am grateful to him for sponsoring this piece of legislation.

This bill actually directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement or a contract with State

veterans homes to pay for adult day health care for a veteran eligible for, but not receiving, nursing home care.

It would also stipulate that payment under each agreement or contract between the VA and a State home cover the cost of adult day care for eligible veterans at a rate equal to 65 percent of the payment that the VA would otherwise pay to the State home if the veteran were receiving nursing home care.

Adult day health care programs provide veterans in need of skilled services, case management, or assistance with activities of daily living with valuable social activities, peer support, medical monitoring, companionship, and recreation during the day and provide caregivers with needed respite.

However, according to the National Association of State Veterans Homes, veterans face barriers accessing adult health care programs each day due to costs. This bill would help address those cost concerns and increase the degree of access for veterans who are eligible for VA-paid nursing home care due to their 70 percent or higher service-connected rating.

As the veteran population ages, Mr. Speaker, it is increasingly important that the VA provide a wide variety of geriatric and long-term care services and supports, and adult day health care programs can serve as an important component of that.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this piece of legislation.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

According to the VA, adult day health care is a program which veterans can go to during the day for social activities, peer support, companionship, and recreation.

The program is for veterans who need skilled services, case management, and help with activities of daily living. Examples include helping with bathing, dressing, fixing meals, or taking medication.

This program is also for veterans who are isolated or their caregiver is experiencing burdens. Adult day health care can be used in combination with other home and community-based services.

Health services such as care from nurses, therapists, social workers, and others may also be available. Adult day health care can provide respite care for a family caregiver and also help veterans and their caregivers gain skills to manage the veteran's care at home.

This legislation would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreement with State veterans homes to provide adult health care for a veteran who is eligible for but does not receive nursing home care.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the First District of New York (Mr. ZELDIN), the sponsor of this piece of legislation.

□ 1630

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2460, which would expand disabled veterans' access to adult day health care, a daily program for disabled veterans who need extra assistance and special attention in their day-to-day lives. Those veterans who are 70 percent or more disabled from a service-connected injury often require significant assistance from others in order to carry out basic everyday tasks.

Despite various care options for veterans, their choices are often limited and can come at a great expense. One such program that is currently available is adult day health care. This program provides disabled veterans and their families with a high-quality alternative to nursing home care, providing quality outpatient services for those suffering from debilitating illnesses or disabilities.

These programs provide a range of services from daily activities such as bathing to full medical services like physical therapy. The focus of the program is on improving disabled veterans' quality of life through an individualized plan specific to their needs while still allowing them to maintain their independence.

Adult day health care programs don't only benefit the veteran, they also benefit the family members and caregivers as well. This model allows caregivers to tend to their day-to-day activities without worrying about the well-being of their spouse, child, or friend, allowing the veteran to lead a much more fulfilling life, while keeping families together and strong.

Adult day health care, however, is only currently offered at three facilities in the entire country. My district is fortunate to have one of these facilities, the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook, New York, but this program could easily be offered at any of the 153 State veterans homes across the country.

Since the Department of Veterans Affairs does not currently cover the cost of participation in this program, the expense must be paid out of pocket by the veteran and their family, which significantly limits the number of veterans who can enroll.

My bill, H.R. 2460, would ensure that 70 percent or more service-connected disabled veterans are able to receive adult day health care at no cost to the veteran and their family by defining the program as a reimbursable treatment option through the VA. This would expand this great option of care for our veterans.

Currently, 52 Republicans and Democrats in this Chamber have signed on as cosponsors of this bill. I would like to thank the chairman of the House

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, JEFF MILLER, for his leadership as chairman of the committee and for recognizing the urgency in passing this bill. Myself, the committee, many Members of this Congress, his constituents, and this country will miss him following his service this year.

I would also like to thank House Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY for having this bill placed on the calendar for today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2460.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, too, ask all my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2460.

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.

FINAL FAREWELL ACT OF 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3715) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit interments, funerals, memorial services, and ceremonies of deceased veterans at national cemeteries and State cemeteries receiving grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs during certain weekends if requested for religious reasons, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3715

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 "Final Farewell Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF INTERMENTS, FUNERALS, MEMORIAL SERVICES, AND CEREMONIES AT NATIONAL CEMETERIES AND STATE CEMETERIES RECEIVING GRANTS DURING WEEKENDS.

(a) NATIONAL CEMETERIES.—Section 2404 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) The Secretary shall permit the interment or funeral, memorial service, or ceremony of a deceased veteran at a national cemetery during weekends, other than Federal holiday weekends, upon a request of the next-of-kin of the veteran."

(b) STATE CEMETERIES.—Section 2408(c) of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

"(2) In addition to the conditions specified in subsection (b) and paragraph (1), any grant to a State under this section to assist such State in establishing a veterans' cemetery shall be made on the condition that