

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 49

To designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

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 the following:

5 (1) Major Brent Taylor began his military serv-
6 ice following the attacks of September 11, 2001. He
7 joined the Army National Guard in 2003, three days
8 after his engagement to his wife, Jennie. Five of his
9 brothers would eventually serve in the Armed Forces
10 following the deadly attacks.

1 (2) During his time in the Army National
2 Guard, Major Taylor distinguished himself in service
3 to the United States and the State of Utah. He re-
4 ceived a commission as a second lieutenant from the
5 Brigham Young University Reserve Officer Training
6 Corps in 2006, while graduating as a member of the
7 National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

8 (3) During his impressive career with the Utah
9 National Guard, Major Taylor distinguished himself
10 in multiple specialties, including Intelligence and
11 Military Police. One of his earliest assignments in-
12 cluded analyzing foreign language documents in sup-
13 port of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He also led
14 document exploitation efforts in multiple European
15 and South American languages for a variety of intel-
16 ligence community customers. Major Taylor also
17 managed a team that assessed security vulnerabili-
18 ties at high-profile facilities across the United
19 States, all while maintaining a successful private
20 sector career in Utah.

21 (4) Major Taylor was continuously ready to
22 take up a call to arms from the United States and
23 deployed four times in support of operations in Iraq
24 and Afghanistan. His deployed duties varied from
25 Platoon Leader and Combat Advisor to Chief of

1 Staff to the Special Operations Advisory Group, re-
2 sponsible for leading a joint task force advising and
3 assisting an elite Afghan special operations unit.

4 (5) Throughout his deployments, Major Taylor
5 distinguished himself on several occasions, earning a
6 multitude of awards including the Bronze Star. The
7 citation credits the ability of Major Taylor to think
8 calmly and decisively to keep his subordinates safe
9 while traversing 600,000 miles of roads in Iraq,
10 laden with improvised explosive devices (commonly
11 referred to as “IED”) and ripe for ambush.

12 (6) During one particularly harrowing mission,
13 Major Taylor’s vehicle was struck by an IED. Al-
14 though he survived the attack, the wounds he re-
15 ceived earned him the Purple Heart.

16 (7) Major Taylor’s amazing record of service
17 was not limited to the battlefield. In 2010, he served
18 as a member of the North Ogden City Council and,
19 in 2013, Major Taylor was elected mayor. His stead-
20 fast leadership led to the city being recognized as
21 “Business Friendly” by the Governor of Utah, and
22 as one of the safest, freest cities in the United
23 States by several organizations. His initiatives in-
24 cluded improvements to public works and infrastruc-
25 ture, attracting businesses to the area, developing a

1 local community center, and increasing trans-
2 parency. His action led his constituents to reelect
3 Major Taylor in 2017.

4 (8) In 2018, Major Taylor placed himself on a
5 leave of absence from his mayoral duties in order to
6 deploy to Afghanistan, explaining to his constituents,
7 “Service is what leadership is all about.”.

8 (9) While serving in Afghanistan, a dear col-
9 league, Afghani Lieutenant Kefayatullah, was killed
10 shortly before the Afghan elections. Major Taylor
11 wrote, “The strong turnout at that election, despite
12 the attacks and challenges, was a success for the
13 long-suffering people of Afghanistan, and for the
14 cause of human freedom. I am proud of the brave
15 Afghan and U.S. soldiers I serve with. Many Amer-
16 ican, NATO and Afghan troops have died to make
17 moments like this election possible.”. He also
18 extolled the American public to embrace its civic
19 duty, stating, “I hope everyone back home exercises
20 their precious right to vote. And that whether the
21 Republicans or Democrats win, that we all remem-
22 ber that we have far more as Americans that unites
23 us than divides us.”.

24 (10) Tragically, on Saturday, November 3,
25 2018, Major Taylor was killed in an attack in Af-

1 ghanistan. He was survived by his wife, Jennie, and
2 his seven children, Megan, Lincoln, Alex, Jacob,
3 Ellie, Jonathan, and Caroline.

4 (11) The impression that Major Taylor left was
5 indelible. An Afghan officer who had served with
6 Major Taylor penned a letter to his wife, stating,
7 “Your husband taught me to love my wife Hamida
8 as an equal and treat my children as treasured gifts,
9 to be a better father, to be a better husband, and
10 to be a better man.”. That officer further com-
11 mented that, “He died on our soil but he died for
12 the success of freedom and democracy in both of our
13 countries.”.

14 (12) It is only well and fitting that, as a tribute
15 to the amazing life of Major Taylor, Congress name
16 a facility in honor of Major Taylor’s shining example
17 of service and sacrifice.

18 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF MAJOR BRENT TAYLOR VET CEN-**

19 **TER OUTSTATION IN NORTH OGDEN, UTAH.**

20 (a) DESIGNATION.—The outstation of the Depart-
21 ment of Veterans Affairs located at 2357 North 400 East
22 Washington Boulevard, North Ogden, Utah, shall after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act be known and des-
24 ignated as the “Major Brent Taylor Vet Center
25 Outstation”.

1 (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regula-
2 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
3 States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall
4 be considered to be a reference to the Major Brent Taylor
5 Vet Center Outstation.

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