

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 49

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

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

9 (2) During his time in the Army National
10 Guard, Major Taylor distinguished himself in service
11 to the United States and the State of Utah. He re-
12 ceived a commission as a second lieutenant from the
13 Brigham Young University Reserve Officer Training
14 Corps in 2006, while graduating as a member of the
15 National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

16 (3) During his impressive career with the Utah
17 National Guard, Major Taylor distinguished himself
18 in multiple specialties, including Intelligence and
19 Military Police. One of his earliest assignments in-
20 cluded analyzing foreign language documents in sup-
21 port of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He also led
22 document exploitation efforts in multiple European
23 and South American languages for a variety of intel-
24 ligence community customers. Major Taylor also
25 managed a team that assessed security vulnerabili-
26 ties at high-profile facilities across the United

1 States, all while maintaining a successful private
2 sector career in Utah.

3 (4) Major Taylor was continuously ready to
4 take up a call to arms from the United States and
5 deployed four times in support of operations in Iraq
6 and Afghanistan. His deployed duties varied from
7 Platoon Leader and Combat Advisor to Chief of
8 Staff to the Special Operations Advisory Group, re-
9 sponsible for leading a joint task force advising and
10 assisting an elite Afghan special operations unit.

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

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

23 (7) Major Taylor’s amazing record of service
24 was not limited to the battlefield. In 2010, he served
25 as a member of the North Ogden City Council and,

1 in 2013, Major Taylor was elected mayor. His stead-
2 fast leadership led to the city being recognized as
3 “Business Friendly” by the Governor of Utah, and
4 as one of the safest, freest cities in the United
5 States by several organizations. His initiatives in-
6 cluded improvements to public works and infrastruc-
7 ture, attracting businesses to the area, developing a
8 local community center, and increasing trans-
9 parency. His action led his constituents to reelect
10 Major Taylor in 2017.

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

15 (9) While serving in Afghanistan, a dear col-
16 league, Afghani Lieutenant Kefayatullah, was killed
17 shortly before the Afghan elections. Major Taylor
18 wrote, “The strong turnout at that election, despite
19 the attacks and challenges, was a success for the
20 long-suffering people of Afghanistan, and for the
21 cause of human freedom. I am proud of the brave
22 Afghan and U.S. soldiers I serve with. Many Amer-
23 ican, NATO and Afghan troops have died to make
24 moments like this election possible.”. He also
25 extolled the American public to embrace its civic

1 duty, stating, “I hope everyone back home exercises
2 their precious right to vote. And that whether the
3 Republicans or Democrats win, that we all remem-
4 ber that we have far more as Americans that unites
5 us than divides us.”.

6 (10) Tragically, on Saturday, November 3,
7 2018, Major Taylor was killed in an attack in Af-
8 ghanistan. He was survived by his wife, Jennie, and
9 his seven children, Megan, Lincoln, Alex, Jacob,
10 Ellie, Jonathan, and Caroline.

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

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

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF MAJOR BRENT TAYLOR VET CEN-**
2 **TER OUTSTATION IN NORTH OGDEN, UTAH.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—The outstation of the Depart-
4 ment of Veterans Affairs located at 2357 North 400 East
5 Washington Boulevard, North Ogden, Utah, shall after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act be known and des-
7 ignated as the “Major Brent Taylor Vet Center
8 Outstation”.

9 (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regula-
10 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
11 States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall
12 be considered to be a reference to the Major Brent Taylor
13 Vet Center Outstation.

Passed the Senate February 5, 2019.

Attest:

JULIE E. ADAMS,
Secretary.