

S. 4073

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

SECTION 1. ROBERT SILVEY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Farmington, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the “Robert Silvey Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Robert Silvey Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 4073 would rename the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Farmington, Missouri as the “Robert Silvey Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.”

Robert Silvey, a decorated veteran of World War II, served as a member of the famed 82nd Airborne Division and was among a group of troopers who parachuted into France the night before the invasion of Normandy on D-Day. While fighting in France, Mr. Silvey was wounded three times and was subsequently awarded the Purple Heart. After returning home from World War II, Mr. Silvey had been active in various service organizations in the Farmington area and was instrumental in advocating for the construction of this new outpatient clinic and has served as an active member in his community as well as in local veterans organizations. Naming this outpatient clinic for Mr. Silvey would be entirely appropriate.

I ask for the support of my colleagues in passing this legislation.

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, we also support S. 4073, and I know the gentleman from Missouri will speak about Mr. Silvey and make sure we know why his service is so honored.

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House bill H.R. 5994 has the full support of the Missouri delegation and the State veterans service organizations and is identical to the Senate language.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 3 minutes to the original sponsor of H.R. 5994, the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON.

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the chairman and ranking member for all of the help they have given us in ensuring that the new veterans clinic in Farmington, Mis-

souri can be named after the person who has advocated most vocally for it, and that is my good friend Bob Silvey.

You mentioned, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Silvey's service as part of the 82nd Airborne and going to the shores of France, actually parachuting in the night before the invasion of Normandy. But Bob has always been an incredible leader in the community of Farmington. As a matter of fact, when Bob asks you to do something, you would never want to say “no,” number one. And number two, you always want to make sure that it gets done as quickly as possible because he will not allow you to say “no” and he will not allow anything not to happen. So when we originally built our smaller veterans facility in Farmington, Missouri, Bob knew the second day that we moved in that it wasn't going to be adequate enough. So he went about looking in the community for a larger space to put it on, one now that is actually adjacent to our VFW post, and it all began like that.

But I have to say that this is an important and incredible tribute to Bob Silvey, but it is also a commitment to all of our servicemen and service-women in Missouri and around the country. Like Bob, so many of them continue to be active members of their community, and they are working tirelessly, as Bob did, to improve the quality of veterans health care in Southern Missouri.

I was really excited in March of this year to break ground on the facility and then in August for us to move into it, and it is a state-of-the-art facility, and really it is only a larger facility but it is there in large part because Bob Silvey was relentless in pursuit of this.

Bob has been an active member of the VFW Post 5896 of Farmington, Missouri. He served as commander four times. He twice served as commander of the VFW Post in Ironton, a town south of Farmington, a couple of times. And I was very, very proud, and I know Bob was too, that the members of the VFW Post 5896 and the American Legion Post 416 in Farmington unanimously passed resolutions in support of naming the new Farmington veterans clinic after Bob Silvey.

In addition, I might want to add that members of our Missouri statehouse and the State senate wrote letters of support in naming this clinic after Bob; so this is an important tribute to him. And certainly this legislation that you all have enabled us to put on the floor today would allow the residents of Farmington, Missouri to honor one of their greatest World War II veterans and ensure that the name on the new clinic reflects the service of a great contributor to our American freedom and the quality of our veterans' lives here at home.

Bob, I know that you are watching this on C-SPAN right now, and I hope that you know how well loved you are. I hope that you know what a leader

you have been, and your commitment and your dedication to this country has been next to none. And this is a very real and fitting tribute to all that you have done to ensure that America remains the greatest country on the face of the earth.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank very much Chairman BROWN and Ranking Member FILNER for this opportunity.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

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

I thank the gentlewoman, through the Chair, for her testimony to this decorated hero.

I would also point out we have another hero named Bob in the audience today. I would just like to recognize Bob Cover from the Legislative Counsel's Office, who has been 30 years writing this legislation and dealing with title 38. And we couldn't do anything without your expertise, Bob. We thank you for all your work. We wish you well in the future, and we appreciate your work to help veterans in this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 4073.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 4073.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5076) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5076

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