

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2549

To name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the “Henry Parham VA Clinic”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2023

Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. CASEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the “Henry Parham VA Clinic”.

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) Henry Parham was born in Emporia, Vir-
6 ginia, in November 1921.

7 (2) At age 21, Henry Parham was drafted into
8 the Army and shipped out to England in 1943 with

1 the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion in preparation
2 for the D-Day invasions.

3 (3) The 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, a
4 segregated Army unit, consisted of approximately
5 700 African-American soldiers with the mission of
6 hoisting barrage balloons designed to entangle in-
7 coming German planes and prevent them from con-
8 ducting strafing runs on ground troops.

9 (4) On June 6, 1944, Private First Class
10 Henry Parham and his section of the 320th Barrage
11 Balloon Battalion landed at Omaha Beach. With the
12 threat of enemy sniper and rifle fire ever present,
13 PFC Parham's unit performed their duties, hoisting
14 their barrage balloons 2,000 feet into the air over
15 the beachhead in Normandy.

16 (5) For two months, Private First Class Henry
17 Parham and the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion
18 stood watch at Omaha Beach, keeping the pipeline
19 of incoming supplies and Allied troops secure before
20 returning to the United States in September 1944.

21 (6) After his service, Henry Parham moved to
22 Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, where he lived and
23 worked as a heavy equipment operator until 1986.
24 There, he met and married his wife, Ethel Parham,
25 to whom he was married for more than 45 years.

1 (7) Henry Parham died on July 4, 2021, in
2 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the age of 99. He was
3 survived by his wife, Ethel, both of whom served for
4 decades as volunteers at the medical center of the
5 Department of Veterans Affairs in Pittsburgh,
6 Pennsylvania, and local chapters of veterans service
7 organizations.

8 (8) Henry Parham was the last surviving Afri-
9 can-American combat veteran who took part in the
10 D-Day landings on June 6, 1944.

11 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF HENRY PARHAM DEPARTMENT OF**
12 **VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.**

13 (a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient
14 clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville,
15 Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the enactment
16 of this Act be known and designated as the “Henry
17 Parham Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the
18 “Henry Parham VA Clinic”.

19 (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regula-
20 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
21 States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred
22 to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference
23 to the Henry Parham VA Clinic.

○