

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9997

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey, the Leonard G. 'Bud' Lomell, Jr. VA Clinic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey, the Leonard G. 'Bud' Lomell, Jr. VA Clinic, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SEC. 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Township of Toms River, Ocean Coun-
6 ty, New Jersey, in the Fourth Congressional Dis-
7 trict, was designated as the site for the new Depart-
8 ment of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic, a state-

1 of-the-art facility serving the region’s large veteran
2 population, to be located at the corner of Hooper
3 and Caudina Avenues.

4 (2) The Mayor and the Township Council be-
5 lieve that this facility deserves to be named in honor
6 of Second Lieutenant Leonard G. “Bud” Lomell,
7 Jr., a long time Toms River and Ocean County resi-
8 dent, who served courageously and heroically during
9 World War II.

10 (3) Second Lieutenant Lomell was born in
11 1920, the adopted son of Scandinavian immigrant
12 parents living in Brooklyn, New York, and his fam-
13 ily eventually moved to Point Pleasant Beach, New
14 Jersey.

15 (4) Second Lieutenant Lomell attended Ten-
16 nessee Wesleyan College, and following college, he
17 enlisted in the Army, volunteering for the elite
18 Ranger Corps, and was a member of the Second
19 Rangers Battalion during the June 6, 1944, D-Day
20 invasion, commanding his own platoon as First Ser-
21 geant.

22 (5) Then-First Sergeant Lomell’s Platoon land-
23 ed at Pointe-du-Hoc, Normandy, France, a rugged
24 100-foot-high coastal promenade along the English
25 Channel coast located between the American-tar-

1 geted Omaha and Utah beaches, successfully scaling
2 the cliffs, despite a withering German defensive bar-
3 rage.

4 (6) Pointe-du-Hoc was heavily defended by the
5 Germans, and the mission of the 225 Rangers was
6 to disable five 155-millimeter artillery guns, which
7 could have rained artillery fire on the Americans
8 landing on either beach, jeopardizing the invasion.

9 (7) Unknown to the Americans, the guns had
10 been moved from the tip of the Pointe and hidden,
11 pointed in the direction of Utah Beach, in an inland
12 apple orchard nearly a mile from the coastal bat-
13 teries.

14 (8) First Sergeant Lomell and another Ranger,
15 Sergeant Jack Kuhn, found the guns undefended,
16 and with Kuhn providing cover, Lomell destroyed
17 the weapons with thermite grenades and using his
18 rifle butt to smash the sights, saving countless Allied
19 lives.

20 (9) First Sergeant Lomell subsequently received
21 a battlefield promotion to Second Lieutenant, and
22 was awarded some of the military's highest honors,
23 including the Distinguished Service Cross, Purple
24 Heart, and Silver Star.

1 (10) Renowned historian Steven Ambrose re-
2 garded First Sergeant Lomell’s valiant acts along
3 with General Eisenhower’s decision to invade on
4 June 6, 1944, as the most significant actions ensur-
5 ing the Allied victory on D-Day.

6 (11) Following World War II, Second Lieuten-
7 ant Lomell attended law school on the G.I. Bill,
8 eventually settling with his family in Toms River
9 and, in 1957, establishing his own law firm, which
10 grew to become one of Ocean County’s largest.

11 (12) Serving as selflessly in civilian life as he
12 did in the military, Second Lieutenant Lomell was
13 involved in numerous civic and charitable organiza-
14 tions, including by serving as president of the Ocean
15 County Bar Association, a director of the First Na-
16 tional Bank of Toms River, a member of the Dover
17 Township Board of Education, and as a founding
18 member of the World War II Army Rangers Bat-
19 talion Association.

20 (13) Second Lieutenant Lomell is profiled in
21 the Greatest Generation, former NBC news Anchor
22 Tom Brokaw’s testament to the heroes of World
23 War II.

24 (14) As a decorated war hero, model citizen,
25 and dedicated husband and father, Second Lieuten-

1 ant Lomell is exceedingly deserving of the post-
2 humous honor of having a new and long-awaited
3 Toms River-based Department of Veterans Affairs
4 outpatient clinic named in his honor.

5 **SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
6 **COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC,**
7 **TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY.**

8 The community-based outpatient clinic of the Depart-
9 ment of Veterans Affairs in Toms River, New Jersey, shall
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and
11 designated as the “Leonard G. ‘Bud’ Lomell, Jr. VA Clin-
12 ic”. Any reference to such clinic in any law, regulation,
13 map, document, record, or other paper of the United
14 States shall be considered to be a reference to the Leonard
15 G. “Bud” Lomell, Jr. VA Clinic.

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