

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4533

To designate the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lexington, Kentucky, as the “Lexington VA Health Care System” and to make certain other designations.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2017

Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. COMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

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## A BILL

To designate the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lexington, Kentucky, as the “Lexington VA Health Care System” and to make certain other designations.

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)(A) Private First Class Franklin Runyon  
6       Sousley was born on September 19, 1925, in Hilltop,  
7       Kentucky. Sousley served as a marine in the United  
8       States Marine Corps during the period beginning on

1 January 5, 1944, and ending March 21, 1945.  
2 Sousley graduated from Fleming County High  
3 School in May 1943 and chose to enlist in the  
4 United States Marine Corps. Upon completion of  
5 military basic training, he was assigned to Company  
6 E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, of the 5th Marines  
7 Division at Camp Pendleton, California, as an auto-  
8 matic rifleman.

9 (B) Private Sousley was promoted to a private  
10 first class on November 22, 1944. Pfc. Sousley land-  
11 ed on Iwo Jima on Friday, February 19, 1945, and  
12 actively fought in the battle for the islands. During  
13 the intense fighting, members of the United States  
14 Armed Forces secured Mount Suribachi and hoisted  
15 a United States flag on top of the summit on Feb-  
16 ruary 23, 1945. On February 23, 1945, Pfc.  
17 Sousley, alongside Corporal Harlon Block, HM John  
18 Bradley, Pfc. Rene Gagnon, Pfc. Ira Hayes, and  
19 Sergeant Michael Strank followed orders to raise a  
20 larger United States flag so it could be seen over the  
21 island. The iconic photograph taken of the 6 men,  
22 while they raised the United States flag attached to  
23 a heavy Japanese pipe has led to an immortalized  
24 symbol of American bravery, perseverance, and sac-  
25 rifice endured by members of the United States

1 Armed Forces during the intense battles of World  
2 War II. Pfc. Sousley was killed in combat by a Jap-  
3 anese sniper around Kitano Point on March 21,  
4 1945.

5 (C) Originally buried in the 5th Marine Divi-  
6 sion Cemetery at Iwo Jima in plot 9, row 8, grave  
7 2189, on March 22, 1945, his remains were re-  
8 turned to the United States on May 8, 1947, where  
9 he was finally laid to rest at Elizaville Cemetery in  
10 Fleming County, Kentucky. Pfc. Sousley was post-  
11 humously awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat  
12 Action Ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation with  
13  $\frac{5}{16}$ " Silver Star, the American Campaign Medal, the  
14 Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with  $\frac{3}{16}$ " Bronze  
15 Star, and the World War II Victory Medal.

16 (2)(A) Mr. Troy E. Bowling was born on July  
17 2, 1926, in Hamilton, Ohio and completed his life's  
18 service on June, 17, 2017, at the age of 90 years  
19 old. At age 17, Mr. Bowling began his service as a  
20 United States Marine and was a proud member of  
21 the Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines,  
22 5th Division. During the United States campaign to  
23 end the war against Japan, Mr. Bowling's unit was  
24 among the first to arrive on the beachheads of Iwo  
25 Jima.

1           (B) While attempting to secure Mt. Suribachi,  
2 his unit came under intense and concentrated fire,  
3 completely overwhelming his unit. Two projectiles  
4 struck Mr. Bowling in the chest and leg, leaving him  
5 critically wounded on the battlefield. At that mo-  
6 ment, Mr. Bowling said he looked to the heavens  
7 and committed to serving mankind for the rest of  
8 his life if he survived.

9           (C) Miraculously, a combat photographer and  
10 medical team then carried Mr. Bowling to the safety  
11 of a landing craft where he witnessed the planting  
12 of the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi—an iconic  
13 image that persists as one of the most legendary and  
14 triumphant moments of the war. The United States  
15 Marines eventually took control of the island; how-  
16 ever, this victory came at a heavy cost as more than  
17 6,800 United States service members gave their lives  
18 during the battle of Iwo Jima.

19           (D) In keeping faith with his commitment to  
20 God made during that battle, Mr. Bowling devoted  
21 more than 78,000 hours of volunteer service to oth-  
22 ers at the Lexington VA Medical Center. For more  
23 than 66 years, Mr. Bowling has risen through the  
24 ranks within the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)  
25 organization, holding nearly every position possible,

1 including State Commander. Mr. Bowling received  
2 the George H. Seal Award for outstanding volunteer,  
3 which he received at the 2005 National DAV Con-  
4 vention in Las Vegas and the Lifetime Service  
5 Achievement Award from the Department of Vet-  
6 eran Affairs. Mr. Bowling was also nominated and  
7 selected to be inducted in the Kentucky Veterans  
8 Hall of Fame for his lifetime of service to veterans.

9 **SEC. 2. LEXINGTON VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.**

10 (a) DESIGNATION.—The health care system of the  
11 Department of Veterans Affairs in Lexington, Kentucky,  
12 shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known  
13 and designated as the “Lexington VA Health Care Sys-  
14 tem”.

15 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-  
16 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United  
17 States to the health care system referred to in subsection  
18 (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Lexington  
19 VA Health Care System”.

20 **SEC. 3. TROY E. BOWLING CAMPUS.**

21 (a) DESIGNATION.—The health care facility of the  
22 Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1101 Veterans  
23 Drive in Lexington, Kentucky, shall after the date of the  
24 enactment of this Act be known and designated as the  
25 “Troy E. Bowling Campus”.

1 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-  
2 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United  
3 States to the health care facility referred to in subsection  
4 (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Troy E.  
5 Bowling Campus”.

6 **SEC. 4. FRANKLIN R. SOUSLEY CAMPUS.**

7 (a) DESIGNATION.—The health care facility of the  
8 Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2250 Leestown  
9 Road in Lexington, Kentucky, shall after the date of the  
10 enactment of this Act be known and designated as the  
11 “Franklin R. Sousley Campus”.

12 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-  
13 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United  
14 States to the health care facility referred to in subsection  
15 (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Franklin  
16 R. Sousley Campus”.

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