

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4533

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1)(A) Private First Class Franklin Runyon
4 Sousley was born on September 19, 1925, in Hilltop,
5 Kentucky. Sousley served as a marine in the United
6 States Marine Corps during the period beginning on
7 January 5, 1944, and ending March 21, 1945.
8 Sousley graduated from Fleming County High
9 School in May 1943 and chose to enlist in the
10 United States Marine Corps. Upon completion of
11 military basic training, he was assigned to Company
12 E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, of the 5th Marines
13 Division at Camp Pendleton, California, as an auto-
14 matic rifleman.

15 (B) Private Sousley was promoted to a private
16 first class on November 22, 1944. Pfc. Sousley land-
17 ed on Iwo Jima on Friday, February 19, 1945, and
18 actively fought in the battle for the islands. During
19 the intense fighting, members of the United States
20 Armed Forces secured Mount Suribachi and hoisted
21 a United States flag on top of the summit on Feb-
22 ruary 23, 1945. On February 23, 1945, Pfc.
23 Sousley, alongside Corporal Harlon Block, HM John
24 Bradley, Pfc. Rene Gagnon, Pfc. Ira Hayes, and
25 Sergeant Michael Strank followed orders to raise a
26 larger United States flag so it could be seen over the

1 island. The iconic photograph taken of the six men,
2 while they raised the United States flag attached to
3 a heavy Japanese pipe has led to an immortalized
4 symbol of American bravery, perseverance, and sac-
5 rifice endured by members of the United States
6 Armed Forces during the intense battles of World
7 War II. Pfc. Sousley was killed in combat by a Jap-
8 anese sniper around Kitano Point on March 21,
9 1945.

10 (C) Originally buried in the 5th Marine Divi-
11 sion Cemetery at Iwo Jima in plot 9, row 8, grave
12 2189, on March 22, 1945, his remains were re-
13 turned to the United States on May 8, 1947, where
14 he was finally laid to rest at Elizaville Cemetery in
15 Fleming County, Kentucky. Pfc. Sousley was post-
16 humously awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat
17 Action Ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation with
18 $\frac{5}{16}$ " Silver Star, the American Campaign Medal, the
19 Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with $\frac{3}{16}$ " Bronze
20 Star, and the World War II Victory Medal.

21 (2)(A) Mr. Troy Bowling was born on July 2,
22 1926, in Hamilton, Ohio and completed his life's
23 service on June, 17, 2017, at the age of 90 years
24 old. At age 17, Mr. Bowling began his service as a
25 United States Marine and was a proud member of

1 the Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines,
2 5th Division. During the United States campaign to
3 end the war against Japan, Mr. Bowling's unit was
4 among the first to arrive on the beachheads of Iwo
5 Jima.

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

14 (C) Miraculously, a combat photographer and
15 medical team then carried Mr. Bowling to the safety
16 of a landing craft where he witnessed the planting
17 of the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi—an iconic
18 image that persists as one of the most legendary and
19 triumphant moments of the war. The United States
20 Marines eventually took control of the island; how-
21 ever, this victory came at a heavy cost as more than
22 6,800 United States service members gave their lives
23 during the battle of Iwo Jima.

24 (D) In keeping faith with his commitment to
25 God made during that battle, Mr. Bowling devoted

1 more than 78,000 hours of volunteer service to oth-
2 ers at the Lexington VA Medical Center. For more
3 than 66 years, Mr. Bowling has risen through the
4 ranks within the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
5 organization, holding nearly every position possible,
6 including State Commander. Mr. Bowling received
7 the George H. Seal Award for outstanding volunteer,
8 which he received at the 2005 National DAV Con-
9 vention in Las Vegas and the Lifetime Service
10 Achievement Award from the Department of Vet-
11 eran Affairs. Mr. Bowling was also nominated and
12 selected to be inducted in the Kentucky Veterans
13 Hall of Fame for his lifetime of service to veterans.

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

15 (a) DESIGNATION.—The health care system of the
16 Department of Veterans Affairs in Lexington, Kentucky,
17 shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known
18 and designated as the “Lexington VA Health Care Sys-
19 tem”.

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

1 **SEC. 3. TROY BOWLING CAMPUS.**

2 (a) DESIGNATION.—The health care facility of the
3 Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1101 Veterans
4 Drive in Lexington, Kentucky, shall after the date of the
5 enactment of this Act be known and designated as the
6 “Troy Bowling Campus”.

7 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
8 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
9 States to the health care facility referred to in subsection
10 (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Troy Bowling
11 Campus”.

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

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

18 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
19 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
20 States to the health care facility referred to in subsection

- 1 (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Franklin
- 2 R. Sousley Campus”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 13,
2018.

Attest:

Clerk.

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