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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BARR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

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

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

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

1 rifice endured by members of the United States
2 Armed Forces during the intense battles of World
3 War II. Pfc. Sousley was killed in combat by a Jap-
4 anese sniper around Kitano Point on March 21,
5 1945.

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

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

1 among the first to arrive on the beachheads of Iwo
2 Jima.

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

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

21 (D) In keeping faith with his commitment to
22 God made during that battle, Mr. Bowling devoted
23 more than 78,000 hours of volunteer service to oth-
24 ers at the Lexington VA Medical Center. For more
25 than 66 years, Mr. Bowling has risen through the

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

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

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

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

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

23 (a) DESIGNATION.—The health care facility of the
24 Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1101 Veterans
25 Drive in Lexington, Kentucky, shall after the date of the

1 enactment of this Act be known and designated as the
2 “Troy E. Bowling Campus”.

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

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

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

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