

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4955

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2023

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania (for herself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. WILD, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

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## 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.

1           (2) At age 21, Henry Parham was drafted into  
2 the Army and shipped out to England in 1943 with  
3 the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion in preparation  
4 for the D-Day invasions.

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

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

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

23           (6) After his service, Henry Parham moved to  
24 Wilksburg, Pennsylvania, where he lived and  
25 worked as a heavy equipment operator until 1986.

1       There, he met and married his wife, Ethel Parham,  
2       to whom he was married for more than 45 years.

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

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

13   **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF HENRY PARHAM DEPARTMENT OF**  
14                           **VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.**

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

21          (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regula-  
22       tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United  
23       States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred

- 1 to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference
- 2 to the Henry Parham VA Clinic.

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