

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3285

To rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, as the “Charlie Dowd VA Clinic”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Mr. DAINES introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

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## A BILL

To rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, as the “Charlie Dowd 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) Charles “Charlie” Arthur Dowd was born  
6                on December 23, 1923, in Rochester, New York.

7                (2) In January 1941, during his senior year of  
8                high school, Charlie enlisted for service at sea in the  
9                Navy, where he was trained as a radioman and later  
10                stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

1           (3) On December 7, 1941, just after completing  
2 a night shift, Charlie and United States Naval forces  
3 positioned at Pearl Harbor came under attack by  
4 more than 300 enemy aircraft belonging to the Im-  
5 perial Japanese Navy Air Service.

6           (4) During the attack on the heart of the  
7 United States Pacific Fleet, which would severely  
8 damage 21 ships and claim the lives of 2,400 Ameri-  
9 cans, Charlie emerged in only his t-shirt and trou-  
10 sers and sprinted from the barracks to the armory,  
11 where he climbed to the roof with a .30–06 Spring-  
12 field rifle to fire at the Japanese pilots of low-flying  
13 torpedo bombers.

14           (5) Following his bravery at Pearl Harbor,  
15 Charlie would go on to continue serving the Navy in  
16 both the Solomon Islands and New Guinea, where  
17 his fellow shipmates would give him the nickname of  
18 “Devil Dog Dowd”, for his unwavering willingness  
19 to volunteer for the most dangerous mission assign-  
20 ments.

21           (6) During the course of his service in the  
22 Navy, Charlie was awarded seven Bronze Star Med-  
23 als.

24           (7) After Charlie received an honorable dis-  
25 charge from the Navy, he returned to the United

1 States, where he worked in masonry and carpentry  
2 construction, before completing his degree at the  
3 University of Florida. Upon graduation, he spent the  
4 next 18 years passing on his knowledge of industrial  
5 arts and drafting to high school students.

6 (8) In 1984, as an avid sportsman with a pas-  
7 sion for the outdoors, Charlie later relocated to Ana-  
8 conda, Montana.

9 (9) Charlie was a vibrant and cherished mem-  
10 ber of the local community in Anaconda, where he  
11 became the Secretary of the Anaconda Sportsmen’s  
12 Club and the Outdoor Writer for the Anaconda  
13 Leader newspaper.

14 (10) Charlie was forever an advocate for his fel-  
15 low veterans and dedicated to preserving the mem-  
16 ory of the events of World War II and those who  
17 paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Until  
18 his dying days, Charlie was an active member of the  
19 Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and loved speak-  
20 ing for civic groups and museums across Montana.

21 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CHARLIE DOWD VA CLINIC.**

22 (a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient  
23 clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte,  
24 Montana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act  
25 be known and designated as the “Charlie Dowd Depart-

1 ment of Veterans Affairs Clinic” or the “Charlie Dowd  
2 VA Clinic”.

3 (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regula-  
4 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United  
5 States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred  
6 to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference  
7 to the Charlie Dowd VA Clinic.

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