

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4042

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community clinic in New City, New York, as the “Jerry Donnellan VA Community Clinic”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community clinic in New City, New York, as the “Jerry Donnellan VA Community 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 makes the following findings:

5 (1) In July 1968, Gerald T. “Jerry” Donnellan
6 of Valley Cottage, New York, was drafted into the
7 Army and served with the 196th Light Infantry in
8 Vietnam, attaining the rank of Sergeant.

1 (2) While in Vietnam, Donnellan was ambushed
2 and sustained a compound fracture in his right arm
3 and lost his right leg below the knee.

4 (3) In 1986, Donnellan began to work in the
5 Veterans Agency Office of Rockland County, New
6 York. In 1992, he was appointed Commissioner of
7 Veterans Affairs and held that position until Janu-
8 ary 2018 when he retired from the county's Vet-
9 erans Service Agency after more than 30 years of
10 service to veterans and their families.

11 (4) During his tenure as Veterans Director,
12 Donnellan created the local Chapter 333 of the Viet-
13 nam Veterans of America, opened the first Rockland
14 County Veterans Homeless Shelter, created the
15 Camp Shanks Museum, helped begin the modern
16 tradition of Memorial Day watchfires to remember
17 the fallen as General George Washington once did,
18 and established the Rockland County Buffalo Sol-
19 diers' Award to recognize the contributions of Afri-
20 can-American veterans.

21 (5) Donnellan was instrumental in opening the
22 first Department of Veterans Affairs community
23 clinic in Rockland County. Recognizing the need for
24 a local health center, he worked with the Depart-
25 ment of Veterans Affairs to secure a site and get it

1 approved. Serving more than 18,000 veterans a
2 year, the New City VA health clinic is an important
3 resource to help meet the needs of veterans in the
4 community.

5 (6) Donnellan received numerous medals for his
6 service, including three Purple Hearts and the Rock-
7 land County Legislature's Distinguished Service
8 Award.

9 (7) Besides being the founder and first Presi-
10 dent of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 333,
11 Donnellan was a member and a veteran service offi-
12 cer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart,
13 Chapter 120, a member of the Disabled American
14 Veterans, Chapter 98, a member of the Rockland
15 County Marine Corps League, and a member of the
16 American Legion, Post 310.

17 (8) Donnellan worked and volunteered for many
18 non-profit organizations, such as the United Way,
19 the Salvation Army, Dominican College, and for one
20 of his alma maters through the Rockland Commu-
21 nity College Foundation.

22 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF JERRY DONNELLAN VA COMMU-**
23 **NITY CLINIC.**

24 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Af-
25 fairs community clinic in New City, New York, shall after

1 the date of the enactment of this Act be known as the
2 “Jerry Donnellan VA Community Clinic”.

3 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
4 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
5 States to the community clinic referred to in subsection
6 (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Jerry
7 Donnellan VA Community Clinic.

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