



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON, INC.

PO Box 1730 ★ Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730

January 25, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
U. S. Senator  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley,

The American Legion Department of Oregon strongly support and endorse the request of the Bend Heroes Foundation that the U.S. Congress rename the following medical facilities run by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Oregon for Oregon Medal of Honor recipients:

**Bend VA Clinic:** Robert D. Maxwell (World War II)  
**Salem VA Clinic:** Henry Schauer (World War II)  
**Portland VA Medical Center:** Elmer E. Fryar and Stuart S. Stryker (World War II / KIA)  
**Eugene VA Health Care Center:** Maximo Yabes (Vietnam/ KIA)  
**LaGrande VA Clinic:** John Noble Holcomb (Vietnam/ KIA)

Please see the UVGO's resolution below, supporting this action. We understand that Congress may create legislation for each facility separately beginning with the Bend Clinic as Mr. Maxwell is the only surviving Medal of Honor recipient and, at 98 years of age, is our nation's oldest recipient. Each facility will be handled separately by the House of Representatives and the Senate.

I thank you on behalf of the The American Legion Department of Oregon for your consideration and support in this matter. Oregon will eventually join seven other states with VA medical facilities named for Medal of Honor recipients. Oregon will be the first state with more than one facility and the first honoring a Viet Nam Medal of Honor recipient.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Harris  
Commander  
The American Legion  
Department of Oregon

FEB 4 19PM 3:41

## RESOLUTON

Submitted by: The United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO)

WHEREAS, Oregon has been home to 29 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients who were awarded our nation's highest military award for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty at risk to one's life" during wars from the Civil War to the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Beginning with World War II and ending with the Vietnam War, 12 Oregonians were awarded the Medal of Honor: World War II (6), Korea (2), Vietnam (4); and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress and President of the United States renamed the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Outreach Clinic in The Dalles, Oregon "Loren R. Kaufman VA Clinic" to honor Loren Kaufman, a Korean War Medal of Honor recipient who entered service from The Dalles and who was killed by the enemy while saving others during his act of valor; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2018, the Bend Heroes Foundation requested the United States Congress to rename 5 VA medical facilities in Oregon in honor of 6 Oregon Medal of Honor recipients; and

WHEREAS, at least 7 VA medical facilities across the United States have been named for Medal of Honor recipients by the United States Congress with none named for Vietnam War recipients; and

WHEREAS, Bend, Oregon is home to World War II Medal of Honor recipient TECH 5 Robert D. Maxwell, who was severely injured while saving others during his act of valor, and

WHEREAS, TECH 5 Robert D. Maxwell at age 98 is our nation's oldest living Medal of Honor recipient, the only recipient living in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, Portland, Oregon was home to World War II Medal of Honor recipients PVT Elmer E. Fryar and SFC Stuart S. Stryker who made the ultimate sacrifice while saving others during their acts of valor in The Philippines and Italy; and

WHEREAS, PVT. Elmer E. Fryar is the only Medal of Honor recipient from Oregon who remains Missing-In-Action; and

WHEREAS, Salem, Oregon was home to World War II Medal of Honor recipient TSGT Henry Schauer who singlehandedly destroyed an onslaught of enemy attackers and captured 2 dozen enemy infantrymen despite being wounded several times; and

WHEREAS, Richland, Oregon was home to Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient SGT John Noble Holcomb who made the ultimate sacrifice while saving others during his act of valor; and

WHEREAS, Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient SGT Maximo Yabes entered service from Eugene, Oregon and made the ultimate sacrifice while saving others during his act of valor; and

WHEREAS, VA operates 5 medical facilities in or near the cities associated with the above-named Medal of Honor recipients; and

WHEREAS, renaming VA medical facilities for Medal of Honor recipients will not only honor recipients but also inspire VA, veterans, and the public to "act above and beyond the call of duty during everyday activities; and

WHEREAS, honoring Medal of Honor recipients is important to preserving their memories and inspiring new generations of veterans; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The United Veterans' Groups of Oregon endorse the renaming of the following VA facilities as:

**Portland VA Medical Center:** Elmer E. Fryar and Stuart S. Stryker VA Medical Center

**Bend Community Based Outpatient Clinic:** Robert D. Maxwell VA Clinic

**Eugene Health Care Center:** Maximo Yabes VA Health Care Center

**La Grande Community Based Outpatient Clinic:** John Noble Holcomb VA Clinic

**Salem Community Based Outpatient Clinic:** Henry Schauer VA Clinic

And be it further

RESOLVED, that the renamed VA medical facilities will be a permanent reminder that the sacrifices of Oregon's "Bravest of the Brave" veterans were made voluntarily and at a high cost, with the realization that freedom is not free.

Date: January 15, 2019