

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5597

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Bloomington, Illinois, as the “Andrew Jackson Smith Medal of Honor Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Bloomington, Illinois, as the “Andrew Jackson Smith Medal of Honor Department of Veterans Affairs 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) Color Sergeant Andrew Jackson Smith of
6 the 55th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, formerly
7 of the 41st Illinois Infantry Regiment, was post-

1 humously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic
2 actions in the Civil War.

3 (2) His Medal of Honor citation reads “Cor-
4 poral Andrew Jackson Smith, of Clinton, Illinois, a
5 member of the 55th Massachusetts Voluntary Infan-
6 try, distinguished himself on 30 November 1864 by
7 saving his regimental colors, after the color bearer
8 was killed during a bloody charge at the Battle of
9 Honey Hill, South Carolina. In the late afternoon,
10 as the 55th Regiment pursued enemy skirmishers
11 and conducted a running fight, they ran into a
12 swampy area backed by a rise where the Confederate
13 Army awaited. The surrounding woods and thick un-
14 derbrush impeded infantry movement and artillery
15 support. The 55th and 54th regiments formed col-
16 umns to advance to the enemy position in a flanking
17 movement. As the Confederates repelled other units,
18 the 55th and 54th regiments continued to move into
19 flanking positions. Forced into a narrow gorge cross-
20 ing a swamp in the face of the enemy positions, the
21 55th’s Color-Sergeant was killed by an exploding
22 shell, and Corporal Smith took the Regimental Col-
23 ors from his hand and carried them through heavy
24 grape and canister fire. Although half of the officers
25 and a third of the enlisted men engaged in the fight

1 were killed or wounded, Corporal Smith continued to
2 expose himself to the enemy fire by carrying the col-
3 ors throughout the battle. Through his actions, the
4 Regimental Colors of the 55th Infantry Regiment
5 were not lost to the enemy. Corporal Andrew Jack-
6 son Smith's extraordinary valor in the face of deadly
7 enemy fire is in keeping with the highest traditions
8 of military service and reflect great credit upon him,
9 the 55th Regiment, and the United States Army.”.

10 **SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

11 **COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC,**
12 **BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS.**

13 The Department of Veterans Affairs community-
14 based outpatient clinic located at 207 Hamilton Road,
15 Bloomington, Illinois, shall after the date of enactment of
16 this Act be known and designated as the “Andrew Jackson
17 Smith Medal of Honor Department of Veterans Affairs
18 Clinic”. Any reference to such clinic in any law, regula-
19 tion, map, document, record, or other paper of the United
20 States shall be considered to be a reference to the Andrew
21 Jackson Smith Medal of Honor Department of Veterans
22 Affairs Clinic.

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