

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1803

To designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Columbus, Georgia, as the “Robert S. Poydasheff Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2021

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Columbus, Georgia, as the “Robert S. Poydasheff 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) Former mayor of Columbus, Georgia, Rob-
6 ert S. Poydasheff died on September 24, 2020.

7 (2) Robert S. Poydasheff earned a B.A. in po-
8 litical science from the Citadel in 1954, a J.D. from

1 Tulane University Law School in 1957, an M.A. in
2 international relations from the graduate program of
3 Boston University in Berlin, Germany, in 1967, and
4 attended the Hague Academy of International Law
5 in the Netherlands in preparation for a military and
6 subsequent civilian career that focused on serving
7 others.

8 (3) In 1955, Robert S. Poydasheff was commis-
9 sioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry
10 Branch of the United States Army and he was reas-
11 signed to the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

12 (4) Robert S. Poydasheff was a 1976 graduate
13 of the United States Army War College and served
14 a total of 24 years in the Armed Forces, retiring as
15 a Colonel in 1979.

16 (5) Colonel Poydasheff was decorated with the
17 Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the
18 Bronze Star Medal, and the Vietnam Ribbon with
19 Four Battle Stars, and during his military career
20 and because of his expert legal acumen he was as-
21 signed to work on the biggest cases of the time in
22 which he served, but during that time he never lost
23 sight of what he considered his primary role, which
24 was to take care of members of the Armed Forces.

1 (6) Colonel Poydasheff was appointed as legal
2 counsel to the Secretary of the Army and served the
3 needs of all members of the Armed Forces by help-
4 ing to shape the policy of the Army.

5 (7) In 2012, the Army War College Foundation
6 named Colonel Poydasheff an Outstanding Alumnus
7 in recognition of his wide-ranging service to his com-
8 munity after his retirement from active duty in the
9 Armed Forces.

10 (8) Colonel Poydasheff served on the City
11 Council for Columbus, Georgia, from 1994 to 2002,
12 helping all citizens of the community he had come
13 to love while concurrently serving Fort Benning and
14 his beloved members of the Armed Forces.

15 (9) Colonel Poydasheff was elected mayor of
16 Columbus, Georgia, in 2002, served a four-year term
17 and maintained a focus on community-based pro-
18 grams and strengthening the relationship between
19 the city and Fort Benning.

20 (10) During that time he made great contribu-
21 tions to the joint military and civilian communities
22 of Columbus, Georgia, and Fort Benning, appointing
23 first a fellow member of the Armed Forces and later
24 the first African American to the position of city

1 manager, while knowing that doing so would be at
2 his own political peril.

3 (11) After his service as mayor of Columbus,
4 Georgia, Colonel Poydasheff found continued success
5 as a practicing lawyer helping countless citizens and
6 members of the Armed Forces living in the city he
7 once led as well as advocating for many members of
8 the Armed Forces in the area.

9 (12) The continued interest of Colonel
10 Poydasheff in the betterment of Columbus, Georgia,
11 as well as his contributions to the Veterans Action
12 Committee has a continued impact to this day.

13 (13) Colonel Poydasheff served as past presi-
14 dent of the Chattahoochee Council Boy Scouts of
15 America, past president of the Chattahoochee Valley
16 Association of the United States Army, past presi-
17 dent of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, member
18 of the Board of Directors of the Springer Opera
19 Arts Association, past president of the Ann Eliza-
20 beth Shepherd Home, and member of the Kiwanis
21 Club and Columbus Bar Association.

22 **SEC. 2. ROBERT S. POYDASHEFF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
23 **ERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.**

24 (a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient
25 clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at

1 6910 River Road, Columbus, Georgia, shall after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as
3 the “Robert S. Poydasheff Department of Veterans Af-
4 fairs Clinic” or the “Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic”.

5 (b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regula-
6 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
7 States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred
8 to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference
9 to the Robert S. Poydasheff Department of Veterans Af-
10 fairs Clinic.

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