

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3837

To designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Des Moines, Iowa, as the “Staff Sergeant Edgar Torres-Tovar VA Clinic” and to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the “Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard VA Clinic”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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

A BILL

To designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Des Moines, Iowa, as the “Staff Sergeant Edgar Torres-Tovar VA Clinic” and to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the “Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Iowa National Guard
5 Heroes Commemoration Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF STAFF SERGEANT EDGAR**
2 **TORRES-TOVAR VA CLINIC.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Staff Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar
5 was born in DeKalb, Illinois, on October 17, 2000,
6 and raised in Des Moines, Iowa.

7 (2) Staff Sergeant Torres-Tovar graduated
8 from Dowling Catholic High School in West Des
9 Moines, Iowa, in 2019.

10 (3) On February 21, 2019, Staff Sergeant
11 Torres-Tovar enlisted in the United States Army.

12 (4) Staff Sergeant Torres-Tovar was the first
13 in his family to serve in the Armed Forces.

14 (5) Staff Sergeant Torres-Tovar deployed to
15 Kosovo in November 2020, supporting United States
16 and allied operations, and deployed to Syria in July
17 2025 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

18 (6) Staff Sergeant Torres-Tovar served as a
19 Cavalry Scout with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 113th
20 Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th
21 Infantry Division of the Iowa National Guard.

22 (7) On December 13, 2025, Staff Sergeant
23 Torres-Tovar was killed in action in Palmyra, Syria,
24 while supporting United States counterterrorism op-
25 erations.

1 (8) Staff Sergeant Torres-Tovar was awarded
2 the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the Purple
3 Heart, the Combat Action Badge, and the Army
4 Commendation Medal with Combat Device for heroic
5 service during combat operations in support of Oper-
6 ation Inherent Resolve.

7 (b) DESIGNATION.—The clinic of the Department of
8 Veterans Affairs located at 1211 East Army Post Road,
9 Des Moines, Iowa, shall after the date of the enactment
10 of this Act be known and designated as the “Staff Ser-
11 geant Edgar Torres-Tovar VA Clinic” or the “Edgar
12 Torres-Tovar VA Clinic”.

13 (c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
14 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
15 States to the clinic referred to in subsection (b) shall be
16 considered to be a reference to the Staff Sergeant Edgar
17 Torres-Tovar VA Clinic.

18 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM NA-**
19 **THANIEL HOWARD VA CLINIC.**

20 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

21 (1) Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel “Nate”
22 Howard was born on August 14, 1996, in
23 Marshalltown, Iowa.

24 (2) Staff Sergeant Howard graduated from
25 Marshalltown High School in 2014.

1 (3) At the age of 17, while a high school senior,
2 Staff Sergeant Howard enlisted in the Iowa National
3 Guard on November 27, 2013, completing basic
4 combat training and advanced individual training at
5 Fort Benning, Georgia.

6 (4) Staff Sergeant Howard deployed to Kosovo
7 from November 2020 to July 2021 in support of
8 United States and allied operations, served on the
9 Texas border from April 2024 to May 2024, and de-
10 ployed to Syria in July 2025 in support of Operation
11 Inherent Resolve.

12 (5) Staff Sergeant Howard served as a Cavalry
13 Scout with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry
14 Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infan-
15 try Division of the Iowa National Guard.

16 (6) On December 13, 2025, Staff Sergeant
17 Howard was killed in action in Palmyra, Syria, while
18 supporting United States counterterrorism oper-
19 ations.

20 (7) Staff Sergeant Howard was awarded the
21 Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the Purple Heart,
22 the Combat Action Badge, and the Army Com-
23 mendation Medal with Combat Device for heroic
24 service in combat.

1 (b) DESIGNATION.—The outpatient clinic of the De-
2 partment of Veterans Affairs located at 201 East Merle
3 Hibbs Boulevard, Marshalltown, Iowa, shall after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as
5 the “Staff Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard VA Clin-
6 ic” or the “Nate Howard VA Clinic”.

7 (c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
8 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
9 States to the clinic referred to in subsection (b) shall be
10 considered to be a reference to the Staff Sergeant William
11 Nathaniel Howard VA Clinic.

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