

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to you today in support of S. 2385, a bill to rename the VA Outpatient Clinic in Butte, Montana, to the “Charlie Dowd VA Clinic” – out of remembrance to Montana’s last Pearl Harbor Survivor who unfortunately passed away in March 2023.

Charlie fought valiantly at Pearl Harbor—emerging from the barracks in only his night clothes, grabbing a Springfield rifle, and attempting to down the attacking enemy aircraft. After Pearl Harbor, Charlie continued a distinguished career in the U.S. Navy, serving in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea, earning seven Bronze Star Medals.

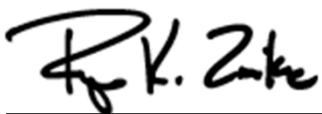
Upon leaving military service, Charlie would go on to start a family and build a successful career in Montana. He remained committed to caring for his fellow veterans as an active member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. He was dedicated to preserving the memory of World War II and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. Charlie was a true patriot whose legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of all who knew him.

While we can never fully repay Charlie’s service to our state and this country, renaming this VA facility in Butte in his honor would be a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress