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House of Representatives

CHARLIE NORWOOD DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FILNER.I'm going to allow the author of the legislation, Mr. *Kingston*, to go into the career of our good friend Charlie Norwood.

I just want to say that we all loved him as a Member. I didn't know he had this incredible career in the United States Army in the dental corps, and I will let you go through that, but it was a very incredible story of his devotion to our Nation.

We saw his heart and soul here. He always wanted to take care of veterans, and I'm pleased to support your motion to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, as the Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support of H.R. 1808, a bill to name the VA

Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, after our former colleague, Charlie Norwood.

Charlie Norwood served as a Captain in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969, beginning with an assignment to the U.S. Army Dental Corps at Sandia Army Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1968 he was transferred to the Medical Battalion of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam and served a combat tour at Quin Yon, An Khe, and LZ English at Bon Son.

During his tour, he participated in experimental military dental practices that are now standard procedure for the armed forces. Captain Norwood was one of the first participants in the Army's outreach program that delivered dentists to forward fire bases in lieu of transferring patients to rear treatment areas. He provided some of the first field-based dental treatment of military guard dogs,

and assisted in non-dental trauma care in Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals.

In recognition of his service under combat conditions, he was awarded the Combat Medical Badge and two Bronze Stars. After Vietnam, Captain Norwood was assigned to the Dental Corps at Fort Gordon, Georgia, where he served until his discharge in 1969.

He remained a member of The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Military Order of the World Wars until his death. H.R. 1808 would name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, as the “Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

...naming a VA facility after this hero and a strong veterans advocate is certainly a proper honor for an honorable soldier and for a Congressman we all love.