

News and stories

U.S. House to consider renaming Huntington VA to honor Woody Williams

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Michael Lemley | [WV News](#)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives will consider legislation to rename the Huntington VA Medical Center to honor West Virginia World War II Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams, Rep. Evan Jenkins, R-W.Va., said Monday.

Hershel Woodrow "Woody" Williams lives in Ona in Cabell County and is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima.

After completing his military service, he worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs as a veterans service representative for 33 years and founded the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, which recognizes the nation's Gold Star families.

Jenkins spoke about the desire to rename the Huntington VA Monday, the day following Williams' appearance and coin flip at the Super Bowl.

"On Sunday, our nation learned of the heroism of Woody Williams when he was honored at the Super Bowl. But here in West Virginia, we have long known of Woody as the best our state has to offer," Jenkins said. "Not only did he demonstrate extraordinary heroism

at Iwo Jima, he dedicated his life to serving his fellow veterans. Woody is also a member of my Service Academy Board and advises me on nominating young West Virginians for admission to our nation's service academies.

"Renaming the Huntington VA Medical Center to honor this American hero is a fitting tribute to his life and service."

The full name of the hospital would be the Hershel 'Woody' Williams VA Medical Center.