



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Department of Florida, 2015 SW 75th Street, Gainesville, Florida, 32607

Tel. (352) 331-0945 Fax (352) 331-0946 email davhdq@davfla.com

August 29, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

The Disabled American Veterans Department of Florida would like to go on record to rename the West Palm Beach VAMC to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

Thomas H. Corey was a local leader and advocate for veterans since the mid 1970's. One of his first acts as a civilian was to charter Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 25. Mr. Corey remained a local vibrant leader in his community until his demise. Mr. Corey was an employee of the West Palm Beach VAMC as a patient advocate and served on numerous boards and committees in Pam Beach County. In addition to his VVA membership, Mr. Corey also was a member of American Legion, VFW and DAV. R. Corey lives up to the Mission of DAV-- "Empowering veterans to lead high quality Lives with Respect and Dignity".

We respectfully request Congress consider renaming the West Palm Beach VAMC to the Thomas H. Corey VAMC.

Respectfully requested,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. H. Marshall".

Andrew H. Marshall

Adjutant/ED



July 14, 2022

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the American Legion, Department of Florida, we officially support renaming the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

Mr. Thomas H. Corey, a Vietnam Veteran, was a leader and advocate for Veterans since the mid 1970's.

He established the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 25 in 1981 and the Chapter was named in his honor in 1991 to reflect his advocacy on behalf of veterans, disabled veterans, and Gold Star Families. Tom has been an important and vibrant member of our community and will be sorely missed. Tom worked at the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System as a patient advocate and on numerous boards and committees throughout Palm Beach County.

Tom was a 40-year member of American Legion Post 12 which was originally Post 1 for Florida. The American Legion's mission is to support our Veterans, the Military Branches, and their families by supporting and empowering veterans to succeed and enhance the civic and economic vitality within their communities.

We, respectfully ask for the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System name to be changed to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

For more information, please review attached link <https://parade.com/119148/parade/tom-corey/>

Thank you for honoring the legacy of a true hero, Thomas H. Corey.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny D. Castro", written over a horizontal line.

Johnny D. Castro
Southern Area Commander
Department of Florida

August 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of VFW Department of Florida, we officially support renaming the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

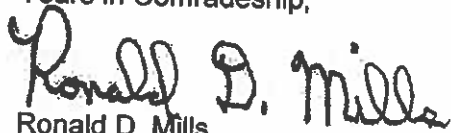
Thomas H. Corey was an avid leader and advocate for Veterans since the mid 1970's. He established the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 25 in 1981 and the Chapter was named in his honor in 1991 to reflect his advocacy on behalf of veterans, disabled veterans and Gold Star Families. Tom has been an important and vibrant member of our community and will be sorely missed. Tom worked at the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System as a patient advocate and on numerous boards and committees throughout Palm Beach County.

Tom is a member of VFW Post 9610 in Lake Park. The VFW's mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; to serve our veterans, the military and our communities and to advocate on behalf of all veterans.

We, respectfully ask for the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System name to be changed to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

Thomas H. Corey is a true hero, and his legacy should live on for years to come.

Yours in Comradeship,



Ronald D. Mills
State Commander
Department of Florida, VFW

Attested By,



Eugene L. Perrino, Sr
State Adjutant/Quartermaster
Department of Florida, VFW

VFW DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

543 N.E. Sanchez Ave.
Ocala, FL 34470

Office 352.622.5126
Fax 352.622.3869

statecg@vfwfl.org
<http://vfwfl.org>



Florida State Council

2465 US Highway 1 South PMB 48, St. Augustine, FL 32086

March 23, 2023

Vietnam Veterans of America
Resolution Committee
8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Resolution Committee:

The Vietnam Veterans of America Florida State Council wholeheartedly supports the Vietnam Veterans of America proposed resolution at the 21st National Convention of renaming the West Palm Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center for former VVA National President and veterans advocate Thomas H. Corey.

The Florida State Council passed a motion at the February 25, 2023 meeting to recommend the renaming of the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center in honor of Thomas H. Corey.

Sincerely,

John McGinty

John McGinty, President
Vietnam Veterans of America Florida State Council

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."



VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA
Thomas H. Corey Chapter #25
West Palm Beach, Florida

July 14, 2022

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Vietnam Veterans of America, Thomas H. Corey Chapter 25, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you for your support of renaming the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

A combat wounded Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Thomas H. Corey was a leader and advocate for Veterans and Gold Star Families since the mid 1970's. He established Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 25 in 1981 and the Chapter was named in his honor in 1991 to reflect his advocacy for veterans, disabled veterans and Gold Star Families. Tom was a vocal advocate for the establishment and construction of this facility. He has been an important and vibrant member of our community and will be dearly missed. Tom worked at the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System as a patient advocate, ombudsman and served on numerous boards and committees throughout Palm Beach County.

As one of the oldest Vietnam Veterans of America chapters in Florida, we take seriously our mission to change lives, empower veterans to succeed, and enhance the civic and economic vitality of the veteran community. We respectfully ask that the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System name be changed to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

For more information, please review attached link <https://parade.com/119148/parade/tom-corey/>

Thank you for honoring the legacy of a true hero, Thomas H. Corey.

Sincerely,

Marc Goodell
President
Vietnam Veterans of America, Thomas H. Corey Chapter 25

FEIN 65-0533828 501(c)(19) Organization



Friends of Fisher House, Inc. is a 501c(3) organization registered in the State of Florida.

2475 Mercer Avenue, #103
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Physical address:

West Palm Beach VA Healthcare
System Fisher House
7305 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, Florida 33410

July 20, 2022

To whom it may concern,

We, the members of Friends of Fisher House, Inc., officially support changing the name of the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

Our Board Member and decorated combat Veteran, Mr. Thomas H. Corey was a leader and advocate for Military and Veteran families since the mid 1970's. He has been an important and vibrant member of our community and will be dearly missed.

Tom Corey served as President of the Vietnam Veterans Peace Initiative. Corey served as President and CEO of Vietnam Veterans of America, the nation's only congressionally chartered organization exclusively serving the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families, retiring from that position in 2005.

He worked at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center as an Ombudsman and Program Specialist with the Directors office.

A native of Detroit, Corey entered the U.S. Army and was sent to Vietnam in May 1967, where he served as a combat infantryman and squad leader with the 1st Air Cavalry Division, 1st Battalion, 12 Calvary. While engaged in an assault against enemy positions, on January 31, 1968, Tet Offense, he received an enemy round in the neck, which hit his spinal cord and left him paralyzed and a quadriplegic. He was medically retired from the U.S. Army in May 1968. Corey is a decorated combat veteran receiving the Bronze Star Medal with V device, 2 Purple Hearts, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Citation, Republic Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Combat Infantry Badge along with other awards.

After an extended hospitalization, Corey returned to his family in Detroit where he spent his time in and out of the local VA hospital. He relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida, in 1972, where he was involved in community affairs, a veterans leader and advocate and served on many advisory boards with local Government, and with the VA Medical Centers in Miami and West Palm Beach, the VA Research Foundation of Palm Beaches, VSIN 8 Management Assistance Council, Friends of Veterans Board, Friends of Fisher House Board, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 25 Board and Vietnam Veterans Peace Initiative, President. He received numerous awards for speaking out on veterans' and disabled persons' rights, since the mid-seventies.

Corey returned to Vietnam 16 times since 1994 representing Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans Initiative program regarding our POW/MIA's and Agent Orange issues with successful results. He led delegations meeting with top Vietnamese and Laos leaders, Government Officials at every level, the Veterans Association of Viet Nam organization leaders and members throughout Vietnam, with Health Care leaders on Agent Orange effects and research from U.S.

and Vietnam, U.S. Ambassador's to Vietnam and Laos, the U.S. Joint Task Force-Full Accounting in Vietnam and Laos, who are responsible for recovery efforts of Americans still listed as POW/MIA. Corey was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in Vietnam.

Corey was the first recipient of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Commendation Medal, VVA's highest award for service to veterans, their families, and the community. Corey was the founding President of VVA Palm Beach County Chapter 25 in 1981. In 1991, the chapter was named the Thomas H. Corey Chapter at its tenth anniversary celebration. In 1985, he was elected to VVA's National Board of Directors. In 1987, he was elected VVA's national Secretary and was re-elected in 1989, 1991, 1993, and 1995. In 1997, he was elected VVA's national Vice President and re-elected in 1999; in 2001 he was elected VVA President and was re-elected in 2003 and served until 2005.

Tom was a shining light and met everyone with a positive attitude and resilient spirit, his humor and quick wit were always a great reminder that whatever you were going through paled in comparison to the challenges he faced on a daily basis. He never complained, on the contrary he made sure to always have a smile and lift up whomever he was engaged with. Tom accomplished so many things in his life and made a point to support and serve others everyday.

Tom Corey was a founding board member and believed in our mission to support the families of our Active Duty Military and Veteran families. Our Fisher House was built in unison to the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System in 1995. Below is a brief history of Friends of Fisher House and provides another example of Tom's impact.

Our primary mission is to support the West Palm Beach Fisher House serve as a warm, welcoming "Home Away from Home" for families of Veterans while their loved ones are undergoing treatment at the adjacent West Palm Beach VA Medical Center or a nearby facility. To be eligible to stay at the Fisher House, a family need only have a fifty-mile commute, a requirement easily satisfied by most families since the VA Medical Center serves a seven-county area. Families stay free of charge indefinitely.

West Palm Beach Fisher House is one of over ninety Fisher Houses in the United States and overseas (Germany and the U.K.), all located at VA Medical Centers or military installations. They are all premised on the belief that *"a family's love is good medicine"*. They are also premised on the notion that families confronting health challenges can help each other get through this stressful time in their lives – especially families who share a similar background of service and commitment to our country.

The first Fisher House was established in 1990 through the generosity of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher who wanted families to feel they were staying with them at their own home. Their good work is still carried on by the Fisher family through the Fisher House Foundation; the VA and Military who manage the Houses; independent, local community support groups such as ours and ultimately the benevolence of the general public.

Friends of Fisher House provides a wide range of guest-related operational support. This includes funding food staples, catered meals, gas cards, gift cards and hotel stays. Our organization has completed several capital projects such as a recent total kitchen renovation and the addition of a gazebo to provide an outdoor living space for families to gather and relax after a long day at the hospital.

Last year, West Palm Beach Fisher House was able to accommodate over 1,000 guests, including those who stayed at local hotels. It is estimated that these families saved an aggregate \$1.1 million in lodging, food and gas.

How much the WPB Fisher House experience meant to these families is best captured in excerpts from just a small sampling of our house guest book commentary:

- "Without your love, care and hospitality, things would have been so much worse"
- "I don't know what I would have done had it not been for your love and kindness. The staff have made it possible for me to carry on with my life after the passing of my dear husband."
- "This House and staff are just amazing. It makes my troubles not feel so troublesome."
- "God sends angels when we need them most and Shelley (WPB Fisher House Manager) and the Fisher House were sent to me.

For more information please review attached link <https://parade.com/119148/parade/tom-corev/>

Thomas H. Corey was an American Hero who made enormous contributions to our Veteran community for over fifty years. Corey, held several important positions and offices in National and local organizations during his lifetime and we acknowledge these are the elements of a legacy that makes a figure such as Thomas H. Corey , worthy of being immortalized in the renaming of the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System to be utilized by our Veterans. We believe this facility should honor a man who fought so powerfully for freedom and was instrumental in the development and construction of said facility. There is nothing more fitting than to have our VA named for someone who served selflessly and was responsible for changing the law to accommodate disabled veterans, assuring superior patient care and advocacy.

Thank you for honoring the legacy of a true hero, Thomas H. Corey.

We, respectfully request for the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System name be changed to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

Sincerely,



Lauren Berkson-Hurst
President
Friends of Fisher House, Inc.



July 14, 2022

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Friends of Veterans, Inc., we would like to thank you for your support of renaming the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

Our Board Member and Veteran, Mr. Thomas H. Corey was a leader and advocate for Veterans and Gold Star Families since the mid 1970's. He established the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 25 in 1981 and the Chapter was named in his honor in 1991 to reflect his advocacy on behalf of veterans, disabled veterans and Gold Star Families. Tom was a founding member of Friends of Veterans, Inc. established in 1998 to serve as the foundation in support of VVA25, Women Veterans, Gold Star Families and the Veterans Court. Tom worked at the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System as a patient advocate and served on numerous boards and committees throughout Palm Beach County.

As one of the oldest Veteran organizations in Palm Beach County, we take pride in our mission to care for Veterans and their families by assisting with benefits and claims, producing two annual events for Memorial Day at the South Florida National Cemetery and the Veterans Day Parade, erect Gold Star Memorial Markers throughout the county and advocate for Veterans in Veterans court. Tom Corey was an integral part of establishing these efforts to insure our Veterans and their families were not forgotten. We, cannot think of a better tribute and respectfully request for the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System name to be changed to the Thomas H. Corey VA Healthcare System West Palm Beach.

For more information please review attached link <https://parade.com/119148/parade/tom-corey/>

Thank you for honoring the legacy of a true hero, Thomas H. Corey.

Sincerely,

Jerold A. Klein
President
Friends of Veterans, Inc.

FEIN 65-0533828
501(c) (3) Organization

Friends of Veterans, Inc.
12690 Headwater Circle
Wellington, Florida 33414



Vietnam Veterans of America

8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100 • Silver Spring, MD 20910 • Telephone (301) 585-40

Faxes: Main (301) 585-0519 • Advocacy (301) 585-3180 • Communications (301) 585-5245

Finance (301) 585-5542 • Veterans Benefits (301) 585-2614

A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress

July 23, 2022

The Honorable Member
United States Congress/Senate
Washington, DC 20515

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors, I am writing to offer the full and enthusiastic support of Vietnam Veterans of America in seeking Congressional action to officially designate the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center as the Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center.

Shortly following his draft into the U.S. Army, Tom Corey (1944-2022) was sent to Vietnam in May of 1967, where he served as a Squad Leader with the 1st Air Cavalry Division. On January 31, 1968, while engaged in battle he received an enemy round in the region of his cervical spinal column. This injury resulted in him being paralyzed and a quadriplegic for life. Following the incident, in 1968, at the age of 24, he was medically retired.

For his heroic efforts he received the Bronze Star Medal with the "V" device, two Purple Hearts, the Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Combat Infantry Badge, to name a few. Corey was the first recipient of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Commendation Medal, which is the VVA'S highest award for service to veterans, their families, and the community.

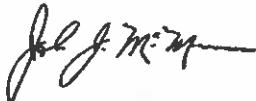
A resident of West Palm Beach and a true American hero, Corey was a dedicated, tireless, and lifelong leader and activist within the veteran community both locally and nationally. Lifelong member of VVA, he was founding President of the West Palm Beach Chapter 25, established in 1981. Shortly after, in 1985, he was elected to VVA's National Board of Directors. He continued his service, acting as VVA'S National Secretary for several terms from 1987-1997, then as National Vice President from 1997-2001, and finally as National President from 2001-2005.

Representing VVA's Veterans Initiative Task Force, Corey returned to Vietnam sixteen times where he led highly successful delegation meetings with top Vietnamese and Laotian leaders on key topics related to Agent Orange and recovery efforts of Americans still listed as POW/MIA. His dedication and passion in working to resolve the lingering wounds of the Vietnam War did not go unnoticed, as he was eventually nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

Corey's involvement throughout local, regional, and national veteran organizations knew no limits. He was a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart Association, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1st Cavalry Association, and the National Association of Uniformed Services. He was also a founding member of the local Friends of Fisher House, Inc., whose mission is to support the Fisher House located at the West Palm Beach VA, and he was instrumental in establishing the Medical Center in West Palm Beach, continuing his dedication as an affiliate to the Patient Advocate team. His commitment to his brothers- and sisters-in-arms was unparalleled.

Corey gave everything to help veterans and this nation as he dedicated his life to bettering the lives of other veterans. It is only fitting for all that he has done for this country and its veterans that he be recognized. He once said, "We fought for what was right, and for what was important for those who served, for those who didn't return, for those who are still suffering today." That is the true essence of what Corey stood for. It would be an honor and privilege to see the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center dedicated to Mr. Thomas H. Corey and the legacy he created.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack J. McManus", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jack McManus
National President