

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
104th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
THE HILTON, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
JULY 13 – 16, 2023**

Resolution No. 104-1

Submitted by: Craig Wilhelm
Department Commander

WHEREAS, PFC Henry Parham was drafted at age 21 by the U.S. Army and assigned to the 320th Anti-Aircraft Barrage Balloon Battalion, and

WHEREAS, PFC Parham's unit was the only all African American unit to take part in the D-Day landings at Normandy on June 6, 1944, and

WHEREAS, on that fateful day, the 320th Battalion's mission was to hoist barrage balloons above Omaha Beach to protect incoming landings of troops and material from aerial strafing runs, and

WHEREAS, PFC Parham and the rest of the 320th Battalion accomplished their mission, with the threat of enemy sniper and rifle fire ever present, securing the air the beachhead and the supply lines which would sustain the Allied war effort and eventual liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation, and

WHEREAS, for two months, PFC Parham and the 320th Barrage Balloon stood watch at Omaha Beach, keeping the pipeline of incoming supplies and Allied troops secure before returning to the United States in September 1944, and

WHEREAS, after his service, Henry Parham moved to Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, where he lived with his wife, Ethel Parham, to whom he was married for 45 years, and

WHEREAS, Henry Parham died on July 4, 2021, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the age of 99, being the last surviving African-American combat veteran who took part in the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania American Legion in regular convention session, at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg, PA, July 13 - 16, 2023, recognize Henry Parham's historic service and bravery by supporting legislation regarding the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be constructed at 421 Mall Circle Drive, Monroeville, Pennsylvania, be designated and known as the PFC Henry Parham Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic or the PFC Henry Parham VA Clinic, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation for their consideration.

APPROVED REJECTED REFERRED CONSOLIDATED FILED