

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 11, 2022

The Honorable Jon Tester
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
412 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
825-A Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Takano
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
364 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Bost
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs
3460 O'Neill House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Chairmen Tester and Takano, Ranking Members Moran and Bost:

As Members of the Florida Delegation, we write in support of S. 2159 and H.R. 1960, legislation that would name the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic in Clay County, Florida after U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Andrew Kenneth Baker. Chief Baker served his country honorably for 17 years before tragically perishing while aboard Trident 615, an HH-60H "Sea Hawk" helicopter that crashed at sea on March 13, 1997.

Chief Baker served on the USS *Carl Vinson* and USS *Coral Sea* as a Ship's Serviceman. He is a graduate of Search and Rescue Swimmer School in Pensacola and Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, where he earned his "Wings of Gold." Chief Baker then reported to HS-9, where he served on the USS *Nimitz*; and then at HS-3, where he was assigned as the Training and Operations Chief. His dedication to our nation reflects great honor on his family and our community. It is fitting that a VA clinic, an institution dedicated to supporting those who served, should be named after a faithful service member.

We respectfully request the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs quickly consider this important legislation. Please see the attached letters of support from the Florida Chapters of Several Veteran Service Organizations.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress




Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



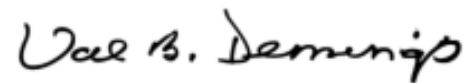
Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Mike Waltz
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz Balart
Member of Congress



Val Demings
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



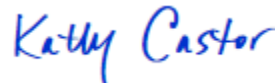
María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress