

About the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center

Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

The C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center, formerly known as the Bay Pines VA Medical Center is a tertiary care facility and part of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System. Originally opened in 1933, the medical center is located on 337 acres situated on the Gulf of Mexico approximately eight miles northwest of downtown Saint Petersburg, Fla. Co-located on the medical center campus are a VA Regional Office and a National Cemetery. This area is part of Tampa Bay, the second most populated metropolitan area in the state. The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System operates nine facilities to include the main medical center located in Bay Pines and outpatient clinics located in Bradenton, Cape Coral, Naples, Palm Harbor, Port Charlotte, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and Sebring. The medical center and its outpatient clinics serve Veterans residing in 10 counties in central southwest Florida to include Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pinellas and Sarasota. Every year, the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System serves more than 100,000 Veterans while providing a full range of high quality medical, psychiatric, and extended care services in outpatient, inpatient, residential, nursing home, and home care settings. The system is the 4th busiest VA healthcare system in the country in regards to patients treated or served.

In 2013, the medical center was renamed in honor of the late U.S. Representative C.W. Bill Young of Florida's 13th District, a staunch supporter of Veterans and a frequent visitor to the facility. Services provided include: inpatient acute care (general medicine/surgery, psychiatry, and rehabilitation); residential programs (community living center, hospice, palliative care, stress treatment, homeless Veterans and substance abuse treatment); primary care; extensive specialty care; outpatient surgical services; OEF/OIF/OND program (Polytrauma level III); home and community care; homeless Veterans care; women Veterans care; and various ancillary and support services. Mental health services are available at all points of care. The facility also offers education and research.

The healthcare system is fully accredited by The Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and several other nationally recognized accrediting organizations. Among the healthcare system's many awards and accolades, in 2013, the organization was recognized nationally as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission, and was named a Cornerstone Recognition Award gold winner by the VA National Center for Patient Safety.

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VA Medical Center Renaming Ceremony

In Honor of U.S. Representative C.W. Bill Young

April 25, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center
Bay Pines VA Healthcare System
10000 Bay Pines Blvd. | Bay Pines, FL 33744



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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Congressman C.W. Bill Young served 22 terms in Congress as a representative of the Thirteenth Congressional District of Florida. He was the senior member of the Florida congressional delegation and was the senior Republican in the entire Congress, House and Senate. He served over 50 years in public office and worked with eight Presidents of the United States.

Young passed away on October 18, 2013, at the age of 82 and was laid to rest at the Bay Pines National Cemetery on October 24. On November 13, President Barack Obama signed into law a bill that officially changed the name of the Bay Pines VA Medical Center to the C.W. Bill Young Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in honor of the Congressman - a staunch supporter of Veterans and a frequent visitor to the facility.

As a nine-year Veteran of the Army National Guard and six as a reservist, Young was nationally known for his expertise on defense and security issues. At the time of his death, he was serving as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and was also a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. From 1999-2005, Congressman Young served as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, overseeing the federal discretionary budget.

During his service on the Appropriations Committee, Young was dedicated to improving the quality of life active duty service members and Veterans of the Armed Forces. He regularly met with enlisted personnel and officers to assess their needs, and as a result, Congress invested in improved base housing, better medical care, increased pay, and more modern equipment for the military.

Young was also a leading advocate for increased biomedical research. During his Chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee, he successfully led the effort in Congress to double federal medical research funding over five years. He also led the fight for federal funding for a variety of medical issues, including an increased immunization rate for preschoolers, improved public health programs nationwide, and cures for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Diseases.

In 1986, Young was instrumental in creating a national registry for bone marrow donors. Now named the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program in his honor, the registry lists more than nine million volunteer donors for patients with leukemia and other life-threatening diseases and has served as a model for similar programs throughout the world.

Throughout his career of public service, Young was a strong advocate for the needs of Pinellas County. Among other issues, he worked to ease congestion along U.S. Highway 19; attract high-tech jobs to St. Petersburg; improve health care for low-income children and families; protect the neighboring MacDill Air Force Base; build a state of the art medical center for veterans at Bay Pines; ensure a steady supply of water for the Tampa Bay area; and offset the effects of erosion on the area's beaches.

Young was born in Harmarville, Penn. and moved to Pinellas County at the age of 15.

Welcome and Opening Remarks**Suzanne M. Klinker**
Director, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

Presentation of Colors* **American Legion Post 273**

Pledge of Allegiance***Bay Pines VAHCS Executive Leadership**
Kris Brown, Associate Director; Dominique A. Thuriere, MD, Chief of Staff; Teresa Kumar, Associate Director, Patient Care Services

National Anthem***John Bond**
U.S. Air Force Veteran and Bay Pines VA Healthcare System Employee

Invocation***Chaplain Richard Green**
Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

Speaker Introductions.....**Suzanne M. Klinker**

Guest Speaker.....**U.S. Representative David Jolly**
*13th Congressional District of Florida
Member, House Committee on Veterans Affairs*

Guest Speaker.....**U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis**
*12th Congressional District of Florida
Vice Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs*

Guest Speaker.....**U.S. Representative Jeff Miller**
*1st Congressional District of Florida
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs*

Guest Speaker.....**Vice Admiral Matthew L. Nathan**
*Surgeon General of the Navy
Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery*

Guest Speaker.....**Bill Young II**
Son of Congressman C.W. Bill Young and Mrs. Beverly Young

Keynote Speaker.....**Robert A. Petzel, M.D**
Under Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Closing Remarks.....**Suzanne M. Klinker**

Presentation of Colors* **American Legion Post 273**

Benediction***Chaplain Richard Green**

Dismissal.....**Suzanne M. Klinker**

