

The John Gibson, Dan James, William Sapp & Frankie Smiley VA Clinic

Hinesville, Georgia · Named by Public Law 118-61 (138 Stat. 1021), signed May 13, 2024

The Four Heroes — Liberty County, Georgia · Killed in Action, Vietnam 1968

Name & Rank	Service	Born	Killed in Action	Notable Awards
PFC John Gibson	U.S. Marine Corps 1st Marine Division	Sep 12, 1946 Riceboro, GA	Feb 7, 1968 Republic of Vietnam	Purple Heart; Combat Action Ribbon; Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/ Palm
SP4 Dan Ninkey James (promoted posthumously)	U.S. Army Infantry	Mar 20, 1948 Riceboro, GA	Dec 29, 1968 Republic of Vietnam	Bronze Star Medal (3 awards); Purple Heart; Combat Infantryman Badge
SP4 William Edward Sapp	U.S. Army Co. A, 1/14 Inf, 4th Inf Div	Mar 12, 1943 Hinesville, GA	Jun 7, 1968 West of Kontum, RVN	Bronze Star w/ “V” (Valor); Purple Heart; Combat Infantryman Badge
LCpl Frankie Lee Smiley	U.S. Marine Corps Co. A, 7th Engr Bn, 1st Mar Div	May 18, 1944 Liberty County, GA	Aug 25, 1968 Republic of Vietnam	Purple Heart; Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/ Palm; RVN Military Merit Medal

SP4 Sapp volunteered for the point position west of Kontum and, though mortally wounded, continued to fight from his litter and rallied his comrades — actions for which he received the Bronze Star with Valor.

The Law

Public Law 118-61 (H.R. 593, 118th Congress) directs that the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Hinesville, Georgia, “shall...be known and designated as the ‘John Gibson, Dan James, William Sapp, and Frankie Smiley VA Clinic.’” It passed the House on November 13, 2023, the Senate on May 2, 2024, and was signed into law on May 13, 2024.

The Issue

“shall”

Mandatory language — the renaming is not optional.

\$87,399.55

Spent on unauthorized “Ralph H. Johnson Healthcare System” signage at the clinic.

~\$230,000

Total documented public funds tied to unauthorized signage modifications.

Although Public Law 118-61 renamed the clinic for the four heroes, the building's primary exterior signage continues to display the unauthorized “Ralph H. Johnson Healthcare System” name. By VA's own FOIA response, no signage variance was submitted as the agency's design manual required. A federal lawsuit now seeks to compel full compliance.

The Ask

Make the **John Gibson, Dan James, William Sapp, and Frankie Smiley VA Clinic** name the **primary identification** of the Hinesville clinic, as Congress directed in Public Law 118-61.

Contact: Rep. Buddy Carter (GA-01, bill sponsor) · Sen. Jon Ossoff · Sen. Raphael Warnock · House & Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs.

Sources: Public Law 118-61 (138 Stat. 1021); National Archives / National Personnel Records Center; U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps service records; Liberty County Probate Court vital records; VA FOIA responses and federal court filings. | Independent memorial & informational sheet — not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Not legal advice.