



## Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Rep. Shuler Applauds Senate Passage of Asheville VA Renaming *Bill to Honor Pfc. Charles George Awaits President's Signature***

*Washington, D.C.* – Representative Heath Shuler today applauded the U.S. Senate for passing his legislation to rename the Asheville VA Medical Center in honor of Pfc. Charles George. Pfc. George was a native of Western North Carolina who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest honor our nation bestows, for his actions during the Korean War.

The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, on which North Carolina Senator Richard Burr is Ranking Member, discharged the bill unanimously Thursday and the bill passed the entire Senate with unanimous consent Thursday evening.

"I am very excited that Senate has passed this important legislation to honor a true hero from Western North Carolina. With the renaming of the Asheville VA Medical Center generations to come will know of the honor, courage, and sacrifice of Pfc. George," said Rep. Shuler. "I am also extremely grateful to Senator Burr for his leadership on this legislation and the personal attention he paid to the issue."

Rep. Shuler had introduced H.R. 2546 in the House of Representatives shortly before Memorial Day, and it passed the House on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Pfc. George was a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and was raised in the Birdtown community of the Qualla Boundary. He attended Cherokee Schools before enlisting in the U.S. Army and being sent to fight in the Korean War. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1952, while fighting in Korea, Pfc. George was killed in action. He died saving the lives of those around him.

According to the citation that accompanied his Congressional Medal of Honor, "Pfc. George shouted a warning to one comrade, pushed (another) soldier out of danger, and, with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion."

The bill now awaits the signature of President Bush in order to become law.

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