

ALBERT A. SPRAGUE VETERANS' MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

FEBRUARY 10, 1949.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. LUCAS, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 745]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 745) to provide for the designation of the United States Veterans' Administration hospital at Chicago, Ill., as the Albert A. Sprague Veterans' Memorial Hospital, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

The letter from the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs interposes no objection to a favorable report of the bill. The letter is as follows:

FEBRUARY 9, 1949.

HON. WALTER F. GEORGE,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
United States Senate, Washington 25, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR GEORGE: Further reference is made to your letter of February 2, 1949, requesting a report by the Veterans' Administration on S. 745, Eighty-first Congress, a bill to provide for the designation of the United States Veterans, Administration hospital at Chicago, Ill., as the Albert A. Sprague Veterans, Memorial Hospital, which has for its purpose naming the proposed Veterans, Administration general medical and surgical hospital at Chicago, Ill., in honor of the late Albert A. Sprague, of that city.

The Department of the Army reports that Albert Arnold Sprague accepted commission on November 27, 1917, and entered on active duty on the same date. He was honorably discharged January 20, 1919, services no longer required. At the time of his discharge his rank was major, infantry. He accepted commission as lieutenant colonel, infantry, Officers' Reserve Corps, on August 18, 1919, which was vacated by Federal recognition as colonel, infantry, Illinois National Guard December 13, 1923. He accepted commission as colonel, infantry, Officers' Reserve Corps on April 8, 1924, which was terminated March 16, 1929.

Below are excerpts from the biography of Albert Arnold Sprague as contained in "Who's Who in America," volume 24, 1946-47:

"Wholesale grocer; born Chicago, Ill., May 13, 1876. Son of Otho Sylvester Arnold and Lucia Elvira (Atwood) Sprague; A. B. Harvard University, 1898; LL. D. Northwestern University, 1938; married Frances Fidelia Dibble, June 22, 1901. Children, Albert Arnold, Laura, Otho S. A. Chairman, board of directors, Consolidated Grocers Corp.; director, Continental Illinois National Bank & Trust Co., International Harvester Co., Clearing Industrial District, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, Wilson & Co., Marshal Field & Co., B. F. Goodrich Co.; trustee, Chicago Rapid Transit Co., Chicago Natural History Museum,

John Crerar Library, Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Shedd Aquarium, Museum of Science and Industry, Sprague Memorial Institute. Student, Officers' Training Corps, Fort Sheridan, Ill. Commissioned major, infantry, November 27, 1917, assigned to Three Hundred and Forty-first Regiment Infantry, Eighty-sixth Division, and detailed to headquarters, sailed for France, July 1918; returned to United States March 1919; colonel, Officers' Reserve Corps. Commissioner of Public Works, Chicago, 1923-27, and 1931-33. Democratic candidate for United States Senate 1924. Episcopalian. Clubs: City, Chicago, Mid-Day, Commercial, Saddle and Cycle, Old Elm Club (Chicago), Harvard, Racquet (New York), Harvard (Boston). Home 1130 Lake Shore Drive. Office: 72 West Adams St., Chicago, Ill."

When the American Legion was incorporated on September 16, 1919, the name of Albert A. Sprague was included among the incorporators (41 Stat. 284, 36 U. S. C. 41). In a resolution of the Evans-Watkins Post No. 753, the American Legion, Highwood, Ill., adopted March 21, 1947, it is stated that Albert A. Sprague was one of the founders of the American Legion, was a charter member of the Department of Illinois, and was the first chairman of the American Legion's National Rehabilitation Committee. Statement is also made in this resolution that the breadth of Mr. Sprague's interests and sympathies extended over the entire range of the cultural, humanitarian, and business affairs of his community, the city of Chicago, and that in World War II he became chairman of the board of directors of the Veterans Information Center of Metropolitan Chicago and was active in the Soldiers and Sailors Council. Mr. Sprague died on April 6, 1946.

It is the practice of the Veterans' Administration to name its hospitals for the locality in which each is located and not for individuals. No objection, however, would be interposed should the Congress see fit to apply some other name. Two Veterans' Administration hospitals have been named by legislative directive. They are the Royal C. Johnson Veterans' Memorial Hospital (Public Law 93, 79th Cong., June 29, 1945), and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Hospital (Public Law 189, 79th Cong., September 26, 1945).

S. 745, Eighty-first Congress, is identical to S. 1341, Eightieth Congress, a report on which was furnished the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on September 12, 1947.

Advice has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection by that office to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

CARL R. GRAY, JR.,
Administrator.

A resolution from the Evans-Watkins Post No. 753, American Legion at Highwood, Ill., recommending the naming of this hospital as the Albert A. Sprague Veterans' Memorial Hospital, is as follows:

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Congress of the United States has authorized, and the Veterans' Administration is soon to construct, a general surgical hospital in the city of Chicago as a component part of the Medical Center district, for the treatment of disabled veterans of all the American wars; and

Whereas one of the charter members of the American Legion, Department of Illinois, was recently called to his eternal reward and left surviving him a record of activities and achievement in veterans' affairs in the United States which is unsurpassed, and which in part is as follows:

"When nearly 42 years of age he joined the original Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and after intensive work in the training camp at Fort Sheridan, Ill., he was commissioned as an infantry major in the United States Army on November 27, 1917.

"He was assigned to the Three Hundred and Forty-third Infantry Regiment of the Eighty-sixth Division, served overseas with distinction, and was honorably discharged on March 28, 1919, as lieutenant colonel, which rank he retained as a member of the Officers' Reserve Corps.

"He became a charter member of Harold A. Taylor Post No. 47, the American Legion, Department of Illinois, which membership he retained until his death on April 6, 1946.

"Intensely interested in the rehabilitation of his less fortunate comrades in the Army who had been broken on the wheel of war, he directed his efforts to inaugu-

rating efficient systems for the treatment or rehabilitation of physically and mentally sick and disabled veterans of World War I, which efforts have greatly influenced the methods thereafter inaugurated in the Veterans' Administration hospitals throughout the country.

"The breadth of his interests and sympathies extended over the entire range of the cultural, humanitarian, and business affairs of his community, the city of Chicago. He was a soldier serving his country in war with distinction; he was a public servant in the highest sense of personal dedication. His thought was ever on the advancement of knowledge, the aid that he could give to the underprivileged and the sick, the welfare of the veterans of war and the progress of his city.

"He was one of the founders of the American Legion and directed his energies toward bringing the organization to its place of high influence. He was the first chairman of the National Rehabilitation Committee and was chairman of the 1933 and 1939 national conventions held in Chicago.

"In the Second World War he became chairman of the board of directors of the Veterans Information Center of Metropolitan Chicago and was active in the Soldiers and Sailors Council.

Whereas it is the studied opinion of the members of Evans-Watkins Post No. 753, Department of Illinois, that the Nation should recognize the achievements of this distinguished citizen-soldier in a manner fitting his activities, and that the perpetuation of his name by placing it upon the said general surgical hospital would be an appropriate means of accomplishing this most worthy objective: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved in regular meeting assembled at Waukegan, Ill., this twenty-eighth day of February, 1947 That in the name of the Evans-Watkins Post No. 753, Department of Illinois, we respectfully urge the honorable, the President of the United States, and the honorable, the Members of the Congress of the United States, and the Director of the Veterans' Administration to designate and name said newly authorized general surgical hospital after our departed comrade, Albert A. Sprague; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution, bearing the signature of the commander, attested by the adjutant, be forthwith dispatched to the tenth district council, and that upon passage, said council in the name of the 5,000 members in the 19 posts shall send it to the honorable, the President of the United States, the honorable, the Members of the Congress of the United States, and the Director of the Veterans' Administration for their sympathetic consideration.

WALTER E. GIEFFER,
Commander.

Attest:

OTTO MAIER,
Adjutant.

Unanimously adopted by the Tenth District, the American Legion, in regular meeting assembled March 21, 1947.

G. A. BOWEN,
Commander.

CLIFFORD P. HOYER
Adjutant.

