

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 876

SPONSOR: Senators Forman & others

SUBJECT: Building Designations

DATE: February 18, 1999 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Cooper</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

SB 876 provides that the State Veterans' Home in Pembroke Pines be designated the Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, Jr. State Veterans' Nursing Home. The Department of Veterans' Affairs is directed to erect suitable markers.

II. Present Situation:

Section 267.062, F.S., provides that no state building, complex, or facility may be named for a living person, except as specifically provided by law.

The state Department of Veterans' Affairs operates nursing homes in Daytona Beach and Land O' Lakes in Pasco County. A third facility is under contract for construction in Broward County. A citizens' committee including legislators from that area, representatives of two local governments, and others, accepted and recommended nominations from the public for naming the new facility. The committee recommended naming the Broward County facility in honor of Lieutenant Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, Jr.

Killed before his twenty-fourth birthday, Lieutenant Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, Jr. died a hero. In January of 1942, Sandy Nininger, Jr. was serving in Company A, 57th Infantry of the Philippine Scouts. The Japanese had been making progress in their initial attacks which would eventually result in the infamous Bataan Death March. During that month, Sandy Nininger, Jr. organized a reconnaissance patrol to gather information on the disposition of Japanese forces opposing him. It was during this patrol that the Japanese executed a ferocious attack on the American and Filipino defenders. Though assigned to another company not engaged in combat, Sandy Nininger, Jr. voluntarily attached himself to Company K, same regiment. After repelling attack after attack, the Japanese began to overrun Sandy Nininger, Jr.'s position. Sandy's memorial plaque recounts the fateful event.

Single-handedly, Sandy Nininger...charged into the enemy positions

with a rifle, grenades and fixed bayonet. Shooting snipers out of trees and destroying enemy groups in fox holes, he plunged forward. Then seizing a Japanese machine gun, he continued onward, killing at least forty enemy and forcing many others to retreat.

For his heroism “above and beyond the call of duty,” President Roosevelt awarded Sandy Nininger, Jr. posthumously with the Congressional Medal of Honor. This was the first Medal of Honor during World War II.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill would designate the Pembroke Pines facility as the Alexander “Sandy” Nininger, Jr. State Veterans’ Nursing Home. The Department of Veterans’ Affairs is directed to erect suitable markers.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs would incur the cost of erecting suitable markers designating the facility as the Alexander “Sandy” Nininger, Jr. State Veterans’ Nursing Home.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
