

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2635

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Hank Aaron, in recognition of his contributions to the national pastime of baseball and his perseverance in overcoming discrimination and adversity to become a role model for all Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2013

Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. BONNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Hank Aaron, in recognition of his contributions to the national pastime of baseball and his perseverance in overcoming discrimination and adversity to become a role model for all Americans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hank Aaron Congres-
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Henry Louis “Hank” Aaron was born in
2 Mobile, Alabama on February 5, 1934, to Herbert
3 and Estella Aaron.

4 (2) One of baseball’s greatest players, Hank
5 Aaron broke many of the sport’s most distinguished
6 records including the career home run record, which
7 he held for over 33 years.

8 (3) Hank Aaron began his baseball career while
9 still in high school, playing semi-professionally for
10 the Mobile Black Bears. He continued on to the In-
11 dianapolis Clowns whom he helped lead to victory in
12 the Negro League World Series.

13 (4) Hank Aaron rocketed through the Minor
14 Leagues, being named the Northern League Rookie
15 of the Year playing for the Eau Claire Bears in
16 1952 and MVP of the South Atlantic League play-
17 ing for the Jacksonville Tars in 1953.

18 (5) In 1954 Hank Aaron started his 23-year
19 career in Major League Baseball playing for the Mil-
20 waukee Braves. He played with the Braves for 21
21 years, following them to Atlanta when they moved in
22 1966. In his final two years in the Major League,
23 he played for the Milwaukee Brewers.

24 (6) To this day, Hank Aaron holds several
25 Major League records, including most career RBIs

1 (2,297), most career extra base hits (1,477), most
2 career total bases (6,856), and most consecutive sea-
3 sons with 150 or more hits (17).

4 (7) On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron broke Babe
5 Ruth's career home run record. At the end of his ca-
6 reer, Hank Aaron had 755 home runs, a record that
7 was not beaten until 2007 by Barry Bonds.

8 (8) Hank Aaron made the All Star Team for 21
9 consecutive years, from 1955 to 1975.

10 (9) Hank Aaron has received numerous awards
11 for his prowess in Major League baseball, including
12 3 Golden Gloves, 2 National League batting titles,
13 4 National League home run champion titles, and
14 the Major League Lou Gehrig Memorial Award. He
15 was also named National League MVP in 1957.

16 (10) Hank Aaron has been recognized for his
17 success by many people and institutions. He was in-
18 ducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, re-
19 ceived a Presidential Citizens Medal from President
20 Bill Clinton, and a Presidential Medal of Freedom
21 from President George W. Bush. He was awarded
22 the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP ('76) for out-
23 standing achievement by an African American.

24 (11) A great sportsman who constantly pushed
25 the limits of the game, as well as the cultural limits

1 of the time, Hank Aaron is a true American role
2 model and will inspire Americans for generations to
3 come.

4 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

5 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
6 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
7 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
8 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
9 medal of appropriate design to Hank Aaron, in recognition
10 of his contributions to the national pastime of baseball and
11 his perseverance in overcoming discrimination and adver-
12 sity to become a role model for all Americans.

13 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
14 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
15 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
16 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
17 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
18 Secretary.

19 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

20 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
21 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3
22 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
23 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
24 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
25 and the cost of the gold medal.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
3 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
4 51 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

8 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
9 **SALE.**

10 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
11 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
12 Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be nec-
13 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
14 to this Act.

15 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
16 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
17 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
18 Enterprise Fund.

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