

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1209

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 2013

Mr. OLSON (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. TURNER, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. STIVERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) on April 18, 1942, the brave men of the
6 17th Bombardment Group (Medium) became known
7 as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” for outstanding

1 heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United
2 States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo;

3 (2) 80 brave American aircraft crewmen, led by
4 Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, volunteered for
5 an “extremely hazardous mission”, without knowing
6 the target, location, or assignment, and willingly put
7 their lives in harm’s way, risking death, capture, and
8 torture;

9 (3) the conduct of medium bomber operations
10 from a Navy aircraft carrier under combat condi-
11 tions had never before been attempted;

12 (4) after the discovery of the USS Hornet by
13 Japanese picket ships 170 miles further away from
14 the prearranged launch point, the Doolittle Tokyo
15 Raiders proceeded to take off 670 miles from the
16 coast of Japan;

17 (5) by launching more than 100 miles beyond
18 the distance considered to be minimally safe for the
19 mission, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders deliberately ac-
20 cepted the risk that the B-25s might not have
21 enough fuel to reach the designated air-fields in
22 China on return;

23 (6) the additional launch distance greatly in-
24 creased the risk of crash landing in Japanese occu-

1 pied China, exposing the crews to higher probability
2 of death, injury, or capture;

3 (7) because of that deliberate choice, after
4 bombing their targets in Japan, low on fuel and in
5 setting night and deteriorating weather, none of the
6 16 airplanes reached the prearranged Chinese air-
7 fields;

8 (8) of the 80 Doolittle Tokyo Raiders who
9 launched on the raid, 8 were captured, 2 died in the
10 crash, and 70 returned to the United States;

11 (9) of the 8 captured Doolittle Tokyo Raiders,
12 3 were executed and 1 died of disease; and

13 (10) there were only 5 surviving members of
14 the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders as of February 2013.

15 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

16 (a) AWARD.—

17 (1) AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tempore
18 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements
20 for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single
21 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the
22 World War II members of the 17th Bombardment
23 Group (Medium) who became known as the “Doo-
24 little Tokyo Raiders”, in recognition of their military
25 service during World War II.

1 (2) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes
2 of the award referred to in paragraph (1), the Sec-
3 retary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medal
4 with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to
5 be determined by the Secretary.

6 (3) NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED
7 STATES AIR FORCE.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of
9 the gold medal referred to in paragraph (1) in
10 honor of the World War II members of the
11 17th Bombardment Group (Medium), who be-
12 came known as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”,
13 the gold medal shall be given to the National
14 Museum of the United States Air Force, where
15 it shall be available for display with the Doo-
16 little Tokyo Raiders Goblets, as appropriate,
17 and made available for research.

18 (B) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense
19 of Congress that the National Museum of the
20 United States Air Force should make the gold
21 medal received under this Act available for dis-
22 play elsewhere, particularly at other locations
23 and events associated with the Doolittle Tokyo
24 Raiders.

1 (b) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under such regulations
2 as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike
3 and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck
4 under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of
5 the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machin-
6 ery, and overhead expenses.

7 (c) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck pursuant to
8 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
9 of title 31, United States Code.

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