H. R. 2598

To grant a congressional gold medal to American military personnel who fought in defense of Bataan/Corregidor/Luzon between December 7, 1941 and May 6, 1942.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 21, 2009

Mr. Heinrich (for himself, Mr. Sestak, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Massa, Mr. Altmire, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Spratt, Mr. Al Green of Texas, Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Mr. Reyes, Mr. Hinchey, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Luján, Mr. Teague, Ms. Kosmas, Mr. Hare, Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Honda, Mr. Conaway, and Mr. Franks of Arizona) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To grant a congressional gold medal to American military personnel who fought in defense of Bataan/Corregidor/Luzon between December 7, 1941 and May 6, 1942.

- 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 The Congress makes the following findings:

- 1 (1) On December 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked Clark Field, Luzon, Philippines Islands.
 - (2) By May 6, 1942, military personnel from the United States and the Philippines had bravely and staunchly fought off enemy attacks for more than 5 months under strenuous conditions that resulted in starvation and disease.
 - (3) By maintaining their position and engaging the enemy for as long as they did, the soldiers at Bataan were able to redefine the momentum of the war and provide other United States and Allied forces throughout the Pacific with time to plan and prepare for subsequent crucial battles.
 - (4) On April 9, 1942, then-Brigadier General Edward King surrendered the combined forces of the United States and the Philippines on the Bataan Peninsula into enemy hands.
 - (5) Over the next week, the soldiers from the United States and the Philippines were taken prisoner and forced to march 65 miles without any food, water, or medical care in what came to be know as the Bataan Death March.
 - (6) During this forced march, thousands of soldiers died, either from starvation, lack of medical care, sheer exhaustion, or abuse by their captors.

- 1 (7) Within the first 40 days at Camp 2 O'Donnell, 1,600 more prisoners from the United 3 States died.
 - (8) On May 6, 1942, then-Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright surrendered the island fortress of Corregidor and its fortified islands into enemy hands.
 - (9) Over the next 10 days, prisoners from Corregidor were held in the open, exposed to the elements with little or no food or water.
 - (10) They were subsequently transported to the old Bilibid Prison in Manila and held several more days until they were loaded into cattle rail cars for transport, followed by a forced march of over 20 miles to Cabanatuan.
 - (11) The conditions at the camp were substandard, leading to increased disease and malnutrition among the prisoners.
 - (12) On June 6, 1942, United States prisoners were transferred from Camp O'Donnell to Cabanatuan.
- 22 (13) In July 1942, all Filipino prisoners were paroled.

1	(14) The prisoners who remained in the camps
2	suffered from continued mistreatment, malnutrition,
3	lack of medical care, and horrific conditions.
4	(15) In 1945, all prisoners were liberated.
5	(16) Over the subsequent decades, these pris-
6	oners formed support groups, were honored in local
7	and State memorials, and told their story to all peo-
8	ple of the United States.
9	(17) Many of these soldiers have now passed
10	away, and those who remain continue to tell their
11	story.
12	(18) The people of the United States are for-
13	ever indebted to these men for—
14	(A) the courage they demonstrated during
15	the first 5 months of World War II in fighting
16	against enemy soldiers; and
17	(B) the perseverance they demonstrated
18	during 3 1/2 years of capture, imprisonment,
19	and atrocious conditions, while maintaining dig-
20	nity, honor, patriotism, and loyalty.
21	SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.
22	(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
23	House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
24	of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
25	award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal

- 1 of appropriate design in honor of the soldiers from the
- 2 United States who were prisoners of war at Bataan/Cor-
- 3 regidor/Luzon, collectively, in recognition of their personal
- 4 sacrifice and service to their country.
- 5 (b) Design and Striking.—For purposes of the
- 6 award under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury
- 7 (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall
- 8 strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
- 9 inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

and made available for research.

10 (c) Smithsonian Institution.—

- 11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the 12 gold medal in honor of the prisoners of war at Ba-13 taan/Corregidor/Luzon under subsection (a), the 14 gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Insti-15 tution, where it shall be displayed as appropriate
 - (2) Sense of the congress.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display at other locations, particularly such locations as are associated with those who fought in defense of Bataan/Corregidor/Luzon and the prisoners of war.

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1 SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

- 2 (a) Striking of Duplicates.—Under such regula-
- 3 tions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may
- 4 strike duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under
- 5 section 2.
- 6 (b) Selling of Duplicates.—The Secretary may
- 7 sell such duplicates under subsection (a) at a price suffi-
- 8 cient to cover the costs of such duplicates, including labor,
- 9 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

10 SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

- 11 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are National med-
- 12 als for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States
- 13 Code.

14 SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS

- 15 OF SALE.
- 16 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
- 17 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
- 18 Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed \$30,000
- 19 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized under section
- 20 2.
- 21 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
- 22 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
- 23 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
- 24 Fund.