

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2668

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the American individuals that were active in aiding and rescuing Jews and other refugees during the period of Nazi Germany’s genocidal “Final Solution” policy to murder every Jew in Europe, in recognition of their contributions, which resulted in tens of thousands of Jews and others being spared from almost certain death.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2023

Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the American individuals that were active in aiding and rescuing Jews and other refugees during the period of Nazi Germany’s genocidal “Final Solution” policy to murder every Jew in Europe, in recognition of their contributions, which resulted in tens of thousands of Jews and others being spared from almost certain death.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “US Rescue and Aid
3 Individuals of World War II Congressional Gold Medal
4 Act of 2023”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Between 1933 and 1945, United States res-
8 cue and relief organizations were responsible for sav-
9 ing many thousands of Jews and other refugees dur-
10 ing the Holocaust. American groups sponsored, fi-
11 nanced, and organized numerous rescue and relief
12 efforts in Nazi-occupied and neutral Europe.

13 (2) These organizations operated in every coun-
14 try in Europe. There were hundreds of American
15 citizens involved in this effort.

16 (3) The Jewish refugees and others who were
17 saved from almost certain death immigrated to the
18 United States, Israel, and other parts of the world.

19 (4) Refugee agencies worked in the face of op-
20 position to the resettling of Jewish refugees. In
21 1939, Congress rejected proposals to offer asylum to
22 20,000 Jewish children. In the same year, the
23 United States refused asylum to Jewish refugees
24 aboard the S.S. ST. LOUIS, who were forced to re-
25 turn to Europe, and 254 of whom died in the Holo-
26 caust.

1 (5) In addition, public opinion in America was
2 largely against aiding refugees, especially through
3 immigration.

4 (6) The rescue of Jews and other refugees was,
5 in some cases, extremely dangerous, especially when
6 conducted in Nazi-occupied territories or in collabo-
7 rator nations. A number of rescuers were arrested,
8 imprisoned, and some were killed.

9 (7) Many of these individuals and agencies
10 aided in the relief and resettlement of Jewish refu-
11 gees and others after the war.

12 (8) Among the most prominent was the War
13 Refugee Board, which was responsible for saving the
14 lives of 200,000 Jews and 20,000 non-Jews.

15 (9) A number of these organizations to be hon-
16 ored are still in existence and are continuing efforts
17 to help refugees throughout the world.

18 (10) The individuals being honored include any
19 individual who participated in the rescue or relief of
20 Jews or other refugees who were in danger as a re-
21 sult of the Nazi genocidal policy against Jews and
22 others in Europe, from 1933 to 1945.

23 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
25 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore

1 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
2 award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of
3 appropriate design in commemoration of the American in-
4 dividuals that were active in aiding and rescuing Jews and
5 other refugees during the period of Nazi Germany's geno-
6 cidal "Final Solution" policy to murder every Jew in Eu-
7 rope, in recognition of their contributions, which resulted
8 in tens of thousands of Jews and others being spared from
9 almost certain death.

10 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
11 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
12 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall
13 strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
14 inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

15 (c) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MU-
16 SEUM.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
18 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
19 shall be given to the United States Holocaust Memo-
20 rial Museum, where it shall be available for display
21 as appropriate and made available for research.

22 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
23 Congress that the United States Holocaust Memo-
24 rial Museum should make the gold medal received
25 under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere,

1 particularly at other appropriate locations associated
2 with commemoration of the Holocaust.

3 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

4 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
5 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at
6 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
7 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

8 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

9 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
10 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
11 51 of title 31, United States Code.

12 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
13 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
14 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
15 items.

16 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
17 **SALE.**

18 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
19 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
20 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
21 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
22 to this Act.

23 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—The amounts received
24 from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under

- 1 section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint
- 2 Public Enterprise Fund.

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