111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 289

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the seven members of the crew of the space shuttle Columbia in recognition of their outstanding and enduring contributions to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 8, 2009

Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the seven members of the crew of the space shuttle Columbia in recognition of their outstanding and enduring contributions to the Nation.

- 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:
- 5 (1) On Saturday, February 1, 2003, the space
- 6 shuttle Columbia exploded upon re-entering the at-
- 7 mosphere following a 16-day mission.

- 1 (2) Before the Columbia started its tragic de-2 scent, the shuttle crew completed some 80 scientific 3 experiments and much of their research data had al-4 ready been relayed to Houston where it has added 5 to the pool of scientific knowledge.
- 6 (3) The Nation pays tribute to the memory of
 7 Colonel Rick Husband, Lieutenant Colonel Michael
 8 Anderson, Commander Laurel Clark, Captain David
 9 Brown, Commander William McCool, Dr. Kapana
 10 Chawla, and Ilan Ramon, a colonel in the Israeli air
 11 force. The diversity of crew represented the ideals of
 12 our Nation.
- 13 (4) These seven courageous explorers paid the 14 ultimate price to improve our understanding of the 15 universe, to advance our medical and engineering 16 sciences, to make the Nation safer and more secure, 17 and to keep the United States economy on the cut-18 ting edge of technology.

19 SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

- 20 (a) Presentation Authorized.—The President is
- 21 authorized, on behalf of the Congress, to award a gold
- 22 medal of appropriate design to each of the 7 crew mem-
- 23 bers of the space shuttle Columbia—
- 24 (1) Rick D. Husband;
- 25 (2) Michael P. Anderson;

- 1 (3) Laurel Clark;
- 2 (4) David M. Brown;
- 3 (5) William C. McCool;
- 4 (6) Kapana Chawla; and
- 5 (7) Ilan Ramon.
- 6 (b) Design and Striking.—For the purpose of the
- 7 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
- 8 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
- 9 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
- 10 Secretary.

11 SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

- 12 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
- 13 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
- 14 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe,
- 15 and at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, includ-
- 16 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead
- 17 expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

18 SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

- 19 The medals struck under this Act are national medals
- 20 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.
- 21 SEC. 5. FUNDING.
- 22 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
- 23 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
- 24 Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000
- 25 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

- 1 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
- 2 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
- 3 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise

4 Fund.

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