

112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3001

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## AN ACT

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg,  
in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions  
during the Holocaust.

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 “Raoul Wallenberg Cen-  
3 tennial Celebration Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) Raoul Wallenberg was born in Europe on  
7 August 4, 1912, to Swedish Christian parents.

8 (2) In 1935, he graduated from the University  
9 of Michigan in Ann Arbor, completing a five-year  
10 program in three-and-a-half years.

11 (3) In a letter to his grandfather, Wallenberg  
12 wrote of his time in America: “I feel so at home in  
13 my little Ann Arbor that I’m beginning to sink down  
14 roots here and have a hard time imagining my leav-  
15 ing it. . . . Every now and then I feel strange when  
16 I think about how tiny my own country is and how  
17 large and wonderful America is.”.

18 (4) Raoul returned to Sweden, where he began  
19 a career as a businessman, and afterwards, a Swed-  
20 ish diplomat.

21 (5) In 1936, Raoul’s grandfather arranged a  
22 position for him at the Holland Bank in Haifa, Pal-  
23 estine. There Raoul began to meet young Jews who  
24 had already been forced to flee from Nazi persecu-  
25 tion in Germany. Their stories affected him deeply.

1           (6) He was greatly troubled by the fate of Jews  
2           in Europe, confiding to actress Viveca Lindfors the  
3           horrific plight of Jews under Nazi Europe.

4           (7) Under the direction of President Franklin  
5           D. Roosevelt, the War Refugee Board was estab-  
6           lished in January 1944 to aid civilians that fell vic-  
7           tim to the Nazi and Axis powers in Europe.

8           (8) One of War Refugee Board's top priorities  
9           was protection of the 750,000 Hungarian Jews still  
10          alive.

11          (9) It was decided that Raoul Wallenberg, aged  
12          31 at the time, would be most effective in protecting  
13          Jews and victims of the Nazis in Hungary under the  
14          War Refugee Board. He was recruited by Iver  
15          Olsen, an agent for the Office of Strategic Services  
16          and sent to Budapest, Hungary, under his official  
17          profession as a Swedish diplomat. He was instructed  
18          to use passports and other creative means to save as  
19          many lives as possible.

20          (10) Wallenberg created a new Swedish pass-  
21          port, the Schutzpass, which looked more imposing  
22          and official than the actual Swedish passport. He re-  
23          portedly put up huge place cards of it throughout  
24          Budapest to make the Nazis familiar with it. He  
25          unilaterally announced that it granted the holder im-

1 munity from the death camps. The Schutzpasses  
2 alone are credited with saving 20,000 Jewish lives.

3 (11) In one example of his heroism, Wallenberg  
4 was told of a Nazi plot to round up several thousand  
5 Jewish women and acted swiftly to save them.  
6 Former Wallenberg staffer, Agnes Adachi, recalls  
7 the time when she and other staff, spent the whole  
8 night making around 2,000 Schutzpasses before 6  
9 a.m. They were all completed and personally deliv-  
10 ered to the women in time to save their lives.

11 (12) Using the money the United States put  
12 into the War Refugee Board, Wallenberg was able to  
13 purchase about thirty buildings, which he used as  
14 hospitals, schools, soup kitchens, and safe houses for  
15 over 8,000 children whose parents have already been  
16 deported or killed.

17 (13) Tommy Lapid, a young boy who was stay-  
18 ing with his mother in a Swedish safe house (his fa-  
19 ther was already dead), gave an eyewitness account  
20 of how his family was helped by Wallenberg and the  
21 War Refugee Board: “One morning, a group of  
22 Hungarian Fascists came into the house and said  
23 that all the able-bodied women must go with them.  
24 We knew what this meant. My mother kissed me  
25 and I cried and she cried. We knew we were parting

1 forever and she left me there, an orphan to all in-  
2 tents and purposes. Then two or three hours later,  
3 to my amazement, my mother returned with the  
4 other women. It seemed like a mirage, a miracle. My  
5 mother was there—she was alive and she was hug-  
6 ging me and kissing me, and she said one word:  
7 Wallenberg.”.

8 (14) Even as the war was coming to a close,  
9 Wallenberg remained vigilant and attentive to the  
10 people under his care. Adolf Eichmann, the SS colo-  
11 nel charged with the extermination of Jews in East-  
12 ern Europe, was determined to exterminate the  
13 70,000 Jews kept as prisoners in a guarded ghetto  
14 in Budapest. As soon as Wallenberg heard of the  
15 plot, he sent Pal Szalay, an Arrow-Crossman senior  
16 official, who defected and turned to Wallenberg.  
17 Szalay was sent to speak to General Schmidhuber,  
18 who was ordered to spearhead the ghetto extermi-  
19 nation in Budapest. Szalay informed Schmidhuber  
20 that, seeing as the war was coming to an end, if the  
21 planned massacre took place, Wallenberg would see  
22 to it personally that Schmidhuber would be pros-  
23 ecuted as a war criminal and hanged. The plans  
24 were ultimately abandoned and considered Wallen-  
25 berg’s last big victory.

1           (15) Of the 120,000 Hungarian Jews that sur-  
2 vived, Raoul Wallenberg, acting under the War Ref-  
3 ugee Board, is credited with saving an estimated  
4 100,000 of them in a six-month period.

5           (16) Raoul Wallenberg's fate remains a mys-  
6 tery. In January 13, 1945, he contacted the Rus-  
7 sians in an effort to secure food for the Jews under  
8 his protection—as he was still working hard to pro-  
9 tect them.

10           (17) In 1981, President Ronald Reagan made  
11 Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United  
12 States, an honor only previously extended to Win-  
13 ston Churchill.

14           (18) These findings show that Raoul Wallen-  
15 berg showed exceptional heroism and bravery with  
16 his actions during the holocaust. Working with the  
17 War Refugee Board, a United State's agency, he  
18 was able to save about 100,000 Hungarian Jews,  
19 many of which were later able to immigrate to the  
20 United States.

21           (19) Indeed, hundreds of thousands of Amer-  
22 ican Jews can directly or indirectly attribute their  
23 own lives to Raoul Wallenberg's actions during  
24 World War II. Many of the people Wallenberg saved  
25 have been influential citizens contributing to Amer-

1        ican institutions and culture, including Congressman  
2        Tom Lantos (February 1, 1928–February 11,  
3        2008), Annette Lantos, and the Liska Rebbe, Rabbi  
4        Yoizef (Joseph) Friedlander, who carried forth the  
5        Liska Hassidic dynasty from Hungary to the United  
6        States after being saved by Raoul Wallenberg.

7            (20) His actions and character make him an ex-  
8        cellent contender for a Congressional Gold Medal in  
9        time for the centennial of his birth, to celebrate his  
10       achievements and humanitarian accomplishments.

11    **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

12        (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
13        the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
14        pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
15        for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
16        medal of appropriate design to the next of kin or personal  
17        representative of Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his  
18        achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

19        (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
20        presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
21        of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
22        blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the  
23        Secretary.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treas-  
3 ury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike duplicate  
4 medals in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to  
5 section 3 and sell such duplicate medals at a price suffi-  
6 cient to cover the costs of the duplicate medals (including  
7 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-  
8 penses) and the cost of the gold medal.

9 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

10 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
11 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
12 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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

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

18 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF CHARGES.—There is author-  
19 ized to be charged against the United States Mint Public  
20 Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be necessary to  
21 pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant to this  
22 Act.

23 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
24 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be



1 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
2 Fund.

Passed the House of Representatives April 16, 2012.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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