## 112TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 3700

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Louis Zamperini, U.S. Olympian and World War II prisoner of war, for his service to the country, sacrifice during the war, and his inspiration to others through his courage as a survivor.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 16, 2011

Mr. McCaul introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

# A BILL

- To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Louis Zamperini, U.S. Olympian and World War II prisoner of war, for his service to the country, sacrifice during the war, and his inspiration to others through his courage as a survivor.
  - 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. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the "Louis Zamperini Con-

5 gressional Gold Medal Act".

#### 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 The Congress finds the following:

(1) Louis Zamperini was born in Olean, New
 York, on January 26, 1917, and was raised in Tor rance, California.

4 (2) Louis Zamperini attended the University of
5 Southern California where, in 1934, he set a world
6 interscholastic record for the mile, clocking in at
7 00:04:21.2 at the preliminary meet to the State
8 championships.

9 (3) Louis Zamperini ran the 5,000 meter dis10 tance event in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin,
11 Germany, the fastest time for an American in the
12 5,000 distance race that year.

(4) Selflessly, Louis Zamperini left a promising
career as an Olympic athlete and enlisted in the
United States Army Air Corps in September 1941.

16 (5) While on a rescue mission in 1943,
17 Zamperini along with Russel Allen "Phil" Philips
18 and Francis McNamara of the 42nd Bombardment
19 Squadron, 11th Bombardment Group survived a
20 deadly crash of their B-24 bomber, named Green
21 Hornet.

(6) Zamperini survived 47 days at sea, drifting
approximately 2,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean
only to wash ashore on the Marshall Islands, where

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1 he and Phillips were taken prisoner of war by the 2 Japanese military. 3 (7) For over two years, Zamperini endured the 4 horrific conditions of his captivity in several Japa-5 nese P.O.W. camps, where he was singled out by 6 guards for extreme forms of torture because of his 7 celebrity status as an Olympic athlete. 8 (8) Though the War Department notified his 9 family that Zamperini was killed in action. 10 Zamperini survived his captivity and returned home 11 upon the liberation of Japan.

(9) For his distinguished service during World
War II, Captain Zamperini was awarded the Purple
Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and a Prisoner of War Medal.

16 (10) Louis Zamperini overcame severe post
17 traumatic stress disorder from his time as a prisoner
18 of war to dedicate his life to inspiring others and
19 being an example for other soldiers to follow.

#### 20 SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
medal of appropriate design to Louis Zamperini, in rec-

ognition of his service to the country, sacrifice during the
 war, and his inspiration to others through his courage as
 a survivor.

4 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
5 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
6 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em7 blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the
8 Secretary.

#### 9 SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

10 Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treas-11 ury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike duplicate 12 medals in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to 13 section 3 and sell such duplicate medals at a price suffi-14 cient to cover the costs of the duplicate medals (including 15 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead ex-16 penses) and the cost of the gold medal.

#### 17 SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
51 of title 31, United States Code.

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

#### 1 SEC. 6. FUNDING.

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF CHARGES.—There is author3 ized to be charged against the United States Mint Public
4 Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay
5 for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

6 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
7 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be
8 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
9 Fund.

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