

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 709

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Mr. CARSON (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MRVAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Muhammad Ali Con-
3 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., on Janu-
7 ary 17, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, Muhammad
8 Ali was the first child of Cassius, Sr., and Odessa
9 Clay.

10 (2) Muhammad Ali was one of the most cele-
11 brated athletes of the 20th century. He produced
12 some of America’s greatest sports memories, from
13 winning a gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics
14 to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer
15 Olympics.

16 (3) After an impressive amateur career, during
17 which he recorded 131 wins and only 7 losses and
18 won 2 National AAU light heavyweight titles, Mu-
19 hammad Ali became the first professional boxer in
20 history to capture the heavyweight title 3 separate
21 times.

22 (4) Muhammad Ali defeated every challenger he
23 faced in the ring. But, on April 28, 1967, he was
24 stripped of his boxing title and barred from com-
25 peting for being a conscientious objector to the war
26 in Vietnam on religious and moral grounds. How-

1 ever, following a unanimous United States Supreme
2 Court decision in 1971, Muhammad Ali’s conscientious
3 objector status was confirmed, his boxing license
4 was reinstated, and he was cleared of any
5 wrongdoing.

6 (5) As an African American and a Muslim who
7 lived in an era that continued to question his civil
8 rights, Muhammad Ali battled issues of race and religion,
9 and received recognition as one of the champions
10 of the Civil Rights Movement in the United
11 States.

12 (6) Muhammad Ali was the recipient of many
13 awards for his sporting prowess and his support of
14 racial harmony, including the Dr. Martin Luther
15 King Memorial Award, the Spirit of America Award,
16 the Amnesty International Lifetime Achievement
17 Award, the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, the Essence
18 Living Legend Award, the Rainbow Coalition
19 Lifetime Achievement Award, the XNBA Human
20 Spirit Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and
21 the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

22 (7) Muhammad Ali was acknowledged by many
23 organizations for his achievements both inside and
24 outside the boxing ring, including being crowned
25 “Sportsman of the Century” by Sports Illustrated,

1 being named “Athlete of the Century” by GQ maga-
2 zine, being named “Sports Personality of the Cen-
3 tury” by the British Broadcasting Corporation,
4 being named “Kentucky Athlete of the Century” by
5 the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, being named
6 “Kentuckian of the Century” by the State of Ken-
7 tucky, being named “Louisvillian of the Century” by
8 the Advertising Club of Louisville, being named
9 “Boxer of the Century” by the World Sports Awards
10 of the Century, being recognized by the Inter-
11 national Boxing Hall of Fame, and receiving hon-
12 orary doctorate degrees from Muhlenberg College
13 and Western Kentucky University, as well as an
14 honorary doctorate of humanities at Princeton Uni-
15 versity’s 260th graduation ceremony.

16 (8) Muhammad Ali received the prestigious
17 “Otto Hahn Peace Medal in Gold” from the United
18 Nations Association of Germany for his work with
19 the United Nations and the Civil Rights Movement
20 in the United States.

21 (9) Muhammad Ali was selected by the Cali-
22 fornia Bicentennial Foundation for the U.S. Con-
23 stitution for personifying the vitality of the Bill of
24 Rights in various high-profile activities.

1 (10) Despite having been diagnosed with Par-
2 kinson’s Syndrome in the early 1980s, Muhammad
3 Ali dedicated his life to the cause of universal
4 human rights and freedom. His commitment to
5 equal justice and peace touched the lives of hundreds
6 of thousands of people worldwide.

7 (11) President Jimmy Carter asked Muhammad
8 Ali to meet with African leaders in Tanzania, Kenya,
9 Nigeria, Liberia, and Senegal as part of President
10 Carter’s diplomatic efforts on behalf of human rights
11 in the 1980s.

12 (12) In 1990, Muhammad Ali traveled to the
13 Middle East to seek the release of American and
14 British hostages that were being held as human
15 shields in the first Gulf War. As a result of his
16 intervention, 15 United States hostages were freed
17 on December 2nd of that year.

18 (13) In 1998, Muhammad Ali was chosen as
19 the “U.N. Messenger of Peace”.

20 (14) Several Presidents of the United States
21 recognized Muhammad Ali, including President
22 George W. Bush who, on November 17, 2002, called
23 him “a man of peace” and stated that “across the
24 world, billions of people know Muhammad Ali as a
25 brave, compassionate, and charming man, and the

1 American people are proud to call Muhammad Ali
2 one of our own”, President Bill Clinton who stated
3 that Muhammad Ali “captured the world’s imagina-
4 tion and its heart. Outside the ring, Muhammad Ali
5 has dedicated his life to working for children, feed-
6 ing the hungry, supporting his faith, and standing
7 up for racial equality. He always fought for a just
8 and more humane world, breaking down barriers
9 here in America and around the world. There is no
10 telling how many tens of millions of people had their
11 hearts swell with pride and their eyes swell with
12 tears in 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic
13 torch, because we know, now and forever, he is the
14 greatest”, President Jimmy Carter who cited Mu-
15 hammad Ali as “Mr. International Friendship”, and
16 President Barack Obama who, as a Senator, had a
17 framed picture of Muhammad Ali hanging in his of-
18 fice, and before announcing his intentions to run for
19 President, Obama visited with Muhammad Ali at the
20 Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

21 (15) Muhammad Ali encouraged humanity
22 through his perseverance and the support of thou-
23 sands of people. He helped such organizations as the
24 Chicago-based adoption agency, The Cradle; the
25 Make-A-Wish Foundation; the Special Olympics’ or-

1 ganization, Best Buddies; and Herbert E. Birch
2 Services, an organization that runs a school for
3 handicapped children and young adults, in addition
4 to a summer camp for children with AIDS.

5 (16) Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie were
6 the founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Par-
7 kinson Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and helped raise
8 over \$50,000,000 for Parkinson's research. The
9 Center's mission is to provide excellence in treat-
10 ment, research, and education for patients and fami-
11 lies affected by Parkinson's disease and other move-
12 ment disorders, regardless of their ability to pay.

13 (17) Muhammad Ali was an inspiration to
14 countless individuals with Parkinson's disease, in-
15 cluding members of the Rock Steady Boxing Foun-
16 dation in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was founded
17 to give people with Parkinson's disease hope by im-
18 proving their quality of life using boxing for fitness.

19 (18) Muhammad Ali was one of the founding
20 members of Athletes for Hope, an organization cre-
21 ated by a few very successful athletes of exemplary
22 character who have a deep commitment to charitable
23 and community causes.

24 (19) Muhammad Ali also established the Mu-
25 hammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville,

1 Kentucky, which promotes respect, hope, and under-
2 standing, and inspires people everywhere to be as
3 great as they can be. A visitor of the Muhammad Ali
4 Center experiences the “hows” of Ali’s life: How he
5 found the courage, the dedication, and the discipline
6 to become a world champion; how he found the con-
7 viction to stand up for what he believed; and how he
8 turned his passion for excellence in the ring to a
9 passion for peace on the world stage.

10 (20) Like Muhammad Ali himself, the Muham-
11 mad Ali Center focuses on what brings individuals
12 together, not what sets them apart, and is a “global
13 gathering place” to which people can come, both on-
14 line and in person, to learn, share, and celebrate our
15 commonalities as human beings and to formulate
16 ways of advancing humanity.

17 (21) Muhammad Ali helped to provide more
18 than 22,000,000 aid packets to assist people in
19 need, and until the last years of his life, he traveled,
20 on average, more than 200 days per year for human-
21 itarian causes.

22 (22) Muhammad Ali, known simply as “the
23 greatest,” transcended the glamour and glory of
24 being a sports champion to become not only one of

1 the greatest sports figures, but one of the greatest
2 role models of our time.

3 (23) On June 3, 2016, Muhammad Ali died at
4 the age of 74.

5 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

6 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
7 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
8 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
9 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
10 medal of appropriate design, to Muhammad Ali, in rec-
11 ognition of his contributions to the Nation.

12 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
13 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
14 of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the
15 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
16 blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the
17 Secretary.

18 (c) TRANSFER OF MEDAL AFTER PRESENTATION.—
19 Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of
20 Muhammad Ali under subsection (a), the gold medal shall
21 be given to his wife, Lonnie Ali.

22 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

23 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
24 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
25 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 at

1 a price sufficient to cover the cost of the bronze medals,
2 including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and
3 overhead expenses.

4 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

5 The medals struck under this Act are national medals
6 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

7 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
8 **SALE.**

9 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is
10 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
11 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
12 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
13 this Act.

14 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
15 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
16 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
17 Enterprise Fund.

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