

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1616

To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Bob Dole, in recognition for his service to the nation as a soldier, legislator, and statesman.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 24, 2017

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SHELBY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Bob Dole, in recognition for his service to the nation as a soldier, legislator, and statesman.

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 “Bob Dole Congres-  
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Bob Dole was born on July 22, 1923, in  
2 Russell, Kansas.

3           (2) Growing up during the Great Depression,  
4 Bob Dole learned the values of hard work and dis-  
5 cipline, and worked at a local drug store.

6           (3) In 1941, Bob Dole enrolled at the Univer-  
7 sity of Kansas as a pre-medical student. During his  
8 time at KU he played for the basketball, football,  
9 and track teams, and joined the Kappa Sigma Fra-  
10 ternity, from which he would receive the “Man of  
11 the Year” award in 1970.

12           (4) Bob Dole’s collegiate studies were inter-  
13 rupted by WWII, and he enlisted in the United  
14 States Army. During a military offensive in Italy, he  
15 was seriously wounded while trying to save a fellow  
16 soldier. Despite his grave injuries, Dole recovered  
17 and was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze  
18 Star with an Oak Cluster for his service. He also re-  
19 ceived an American Campaign Medal, a European-  
20 African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and a  
21 World War II Victory Medal.

22           (5) While working on his law degree from  
23 Washburn University, Bob Dole was elected into the  
24 Kansas House of Representatives, serving from  
25 1951–1953.

1           (6) Bob Dole was elected into the U.S. House  
2 of Representatives and served two Kansas districts  
3 from 1961–1969.

4           (7) In 1969, Bob Dole was elected into the U.S.  
5 Senate and served until 1996. Over the course of  
6 this period, he served as Chairman of the Repub-  
7 lican National Committee, Chairman of the Finance  
8 Committee, Senate Minority Leader, and Senate  
9 Majority Leader.

10          (8) Bob Dole was known for his ability work  
11 across the aisle and embrace practical bipartisanship  
12 on issues such as Social Security.

13          (9) Bob Dole has been a life-long advocate for  
14 the disabled and was a key figure in the passing of  
15 the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

16          (10) After his appointment as Majority Leader,  
17 Bob Dole set the record as the nation’s longest-serv-  
18 ing Republican Leader in the Senate.

19          (11) Several Presidents of the United States  
20 have specially honored Bob Dole for his hard work  
21 and leadership in the public sector. This recognition  
22 is exemplified by the following:

23                 (A) President Reagan awarded Bob Dole  
24 the Presidential Citizens Medal in 1989 stating,  
25 “Whether on the battlefield or Capitol Hill,

1           Senator Dole has served America heroically.  
2           Senate Majority Leader during one of the most  
3           productive Congresses of recent time, he has  
4           also been a friend to veterans, farmers, and  
5           Americans from every walk of life. Bob Dole  
6           has stood for integrity, straight talk and  
7           achievement throughout his years of distin-  
8           guished public service.”.

9           (B) Upon awarding Bob Dole with the  
10          Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1997, Presi-  
11          dent Clinton made the following comments,  
12          “Son of the soil, citizen, soldier and legislator,  
13          Bob Dole understands the American people,  
14          their struggles, their triumphs and their dreams  
15          . . . In times of conflict and crisis, he has  
16          worked to keep America united and strong . . .  
17          our country is better for his courage, his deter-  
18          mination, and his willingness to go the long  
19          course to lead America.”.

20          (12) After his career in public office, Bob Dole  
21          became an active advocate for the public good. He  
22          served as National Chairman of the World War II  
23          Memorial Campaign, helping raise over \$197 million  
24          to construct the National WWII Memorial, and as  
25          Co-Chair of the Families of Freedom Scholarship

1 Fund, raising over \$120 million for the educational  
2 needs of the families of victims of 9/11.

3 (13) From 1997–2001, Bob Dole served as  
4 chairman of the International Commission on Miss-  
5 ing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia.

6 (14) In 2003, Bob Dole established The Robert  
7 J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of  
8 Kansas to encourage bipartisanship in politics.

9 (15) Bob Dole is a strong proponent of inter-  
10 national justice and, in 2004, received the Golden  
11 Medal of Freedom from the President of Kosovo for  
12 his support of democracy and freedom in Kosovo.

13 (16) In 2007, President George W. Bush ap-  
14 pointed Bob Dole to co-chair the President’s Com-  
15 mission on Care for America’s Returning Wounded  
16 Warriors, which inspected the system of medical  
17 care received by U.S. soldiers returning from Iraq  
18 and Afghanistan.

19 (17) Bob Dole was the co-creator of the McGov-  
20 ern-Dole International Food for Education and  
21 Child Nutrition Program, helping combat child hun-  
22 ger and poverty. In 2008, he was co-awarded the  
23 World Food Prize for his work with this organiza-  
24 tion.

1           (18) Bob Dole is co-founder of the Bipartisan  
2 Policy Center which works to develop policies suit-  
3 able for bipartisan support.

4           (19) Bob Dole is a strong advocate for vet-  
5 erans, having volunteered on a weekly basis for more  
6 than a decade on behalf of the Honor Flight Net-  
7 work.

8           (20) Bob Dole serves as Finance Chairman of  
9 the Campaign for the National Eisenhower Memo-  
10 rial, leading the private fundraising effort to memo-  
11 rialize President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Wash-  
12 ington, DC.

13           (21) Bob Dole was acknowledged by many or-  
14 ganizations for his achievements both inside and  
15 outside of politics, including being awarded the  
16 “U.S. Senator John Heinz Award for Outstanding  
17 Public Service By An Elected Official”, the Gold  
18 Good Citizenship Award, the American Patriot  
19 Award, the Survivor’s Gratitude Award, the U.S.  
20 Association of Former Member of Congress Distin-  
21 guished Service Award, a Distinguished Service  
22 Medal, the French Legion of Honor medal, the Ho-  
23 ratio Alger Award, the U.S. Defense Department’s  
24 Distinguished Public Service Award, the National  
25 Collegiate Athletic Association’s Teddy Roosevelt

1 Award, the Albert Schweitzer Medal “for out-  
2 standing contributions to animal welfare”, the 2004  
3 Sylvanus Thayer Award, and honorary degrees from  
4 the University of Kansas, Fort Hays State Univer-  
5 sity, and the University of New Hampshire School  
6 of Law.

7 (22) Throughout his life-long service to our  
8 country, Bob Dole has embodied the American spirit  
9 of leadership and determination, and serves as one  
10 of the most prolific role models both in and outside  
11 of politics.

12 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

13 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the  
14 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore  
15 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the  
16 award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appro-  
17 priate design to Bob Dole, in recognition for his service  
18 to the nation as a soldier, legislator, and statesman.

19 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
20 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the  
21 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall  
22 strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and  
23 inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

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

2       The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
3 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 under  
4 such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price  
5 sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, mate-  
6 rials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and  
7 the cost of the gold medal.

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

9       (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under  
10 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51  
11 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.

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