

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1616

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Bob Dole Congres-
3 sional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

1 (5) While working on his law degree from
2 Washburn University, Bob Dole was elected into the
3 Kansas House of Representatives, serving from
4 1951–1953.

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

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

14 (8) Bob Dole was known for his ability to work
15 across the aisle and embrace practical bipartisanship
16 on issues such as Social Security.

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

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

23 (11) Several Presidents of the United States
24 have specially honored Bob Dole for his hard work

1 and leadership in the public sector. This recognition
2 is exemplified by the following:

3 (A) President Reagan awarded Bob Dole
4 the Presidential Citizens Medal in 1989 stating,
5 “Whether on the battlefield or Capitol Hill,
6 Senator Dole has served America heroically.
7 Senate Majority Leader during one of the most
8 productive Congresses of recent time, he has
9 also been a friend to veterans, farmers, and
10 Americans from every walk of life. Bob Dole
11 has stood for integrity, straight talk and
12 achievement throughout his years of distin-
13 guished public service.”.

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

1 (12) After his career in public office, Bob Dole
2 became an active advocate for the public good. He
3 served as National Chairman of the World War II
4 Memorial Campaign, helping raise over \$197 million
5 to construct the National WWII Memorial, and as
6 Co-Chair of the Families of Freedom Scholarship
7 Fund, raising over \$120 million for the educational
8 needs of the families of victims of 9/11.

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

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

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

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

1 (17) Bob Dole was the co-creator of the McGov-
2 ern-Dole International Food for Education and
3 Child Nutrition Program, helping combat child hun-
4 ger and poverty. In 2008, he was co-awarded the
5 World Food Prize for his work with this organiza-
6 tion.

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

10 (19) Bob Dole is a strong advocate for vet-
11 erans, having volunteered on a weekly basis for more
12 than a decade on behalf of the Honor Flight Net-
13 work.

14 (20) Bob Dole serves as Finance Chairman of
15 the Campaign for the National Eisenhower Memo-
16 rial, leading the private fundraising effort to memo-
17 rialize President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Wash-
18 ington, DC.

19 (21) Bob Dole was acknowledged by many or-
20 ganizations for his achievements both inside and
21 outside of politics, including being awarded the
22 “U.S. Senator John Heinz Award for Outstanding
23 Public Service By An Elected Official”, the Gold
24 Good Citizenship Award, the American Patriot
25 Award, the Survivor’s Gratitude Award, the U.S.

1 Association of Former Member of Congress Disting-
2 guished Service Award, a Distinguished Service
3 Medal, the French Legion of Honor medal, the Ho-
4 ratio Alger Award, the U.S. Defense Department’s
5 Distinguished Public Service Award, the National
6 Collegiate Athletic Association’s Teddy Roosevelt
7 Award, the Albert Schweitzer Medal “for out-
8 standing contributions to animal welfare”, the 2004
9 Sylvanus Thayer Award, and honorary degrees from
10 the University of Kansas, Fort Hays State Univer-
11 sity, and the University of New Hampshire School
12 of Law.

13 (22) Throughout his life-long service to our
14 country, Bob Dole has embodied the American spirit
15 of leadership and determination, and serves as one
16 of the most prolific role models both in and outside
17 of politics.

18 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

19 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
21 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
22 award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appro-
23 priate design to Bob Dole, in recognition for his service
24 to the nation as a soldier, legislator, and statesman.

1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
2 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
3 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall
4 strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
5 inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

6 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

13 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

17 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
18 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
19 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
20 items.

Passed the Senate August 3, 2017.

Attest:

Secretary.

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