117th CONGRESS 2D Session

S. 450

AN ACT

To award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

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 "Emmett Till and
3 Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act of
4 2021".

5 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The brutal lynching of Emmett Till and the
8 subsequent bravery and boldness of his mother,
9 Mamie Till-Mobley, became a catalyst for the civil
10 rights movement.

(2) On August 28, 1955, 14-year-old Emmett
Till was kidnapped, beaten, and shot in Money, Mississippi, where he had traveled from Chicago to stay
with his great uncle, Moses Wright.

(3) The corpse of Emmett Till was discovered
3 days later in the Tallahatchie River and his murderers were acquitted despite Moses Wright providing an eyewitness testimony that the men on trial
kidnapped Emmett Till.

(4) Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett
Till, demonstrated her love for her son and her courage and strength in suffering in the days that followed as she brought the body of Emmett Till back
to Chicago for burial and demanded an open casket
funeral, which drew more than 50,000 attendees.

| 1 | (5) Mamie Till-Mobley further allowed a photo- |
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| 2 | graph to be taken of Emmett Till in his casket, |
| 3 | which was shown throughout the world. |
| 4 | (6) The original casket of Emmett Till stands |
| 5 | on display at the National Museum of African Amer- |
| 6 | ican History and Culture as an enduring reminder |
| 7 | of the racial violence that is a part of the history of |
| 8 | the United States that the people of the United |
| 9 | States must confront. |
| 10 | (7) The heroic actions of Mamie Till-Mobley in |
| 11 | the midst of evil, injustice, and grief became a cata- |
| 12 | lyst for the civil rights movement and continued in |
| 13 | the years to come as she worked for justice and hon- |
| 14 | ored the legacy of Emmett Till. |
| 15 | (8) Mamie Till-Mobley went on to create the |
| 16 | Emmett Till Players, which was a significant na- |
| 17 | tional cultural contribution as teenagers traveled |
| 18 | throughout the country presenting Martin Luther |
| 19 | King Jr. speeches in the name of Emmett Till. |
| 20 | (9) Mamie Till-Mobley also served as chair and |
| 21 | co-founder of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, |
| 22 | which had the dual mission of reopening the murder |
| 23 | of Emmett Till for a reinvestigation and a passage |
| 24 | into law of Federal legislation to ensure that other |
| | |

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1 racially motivated murders during the civil rights era 2 were investigated and, when possible, prosecuted. 3 (10) The efforts of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign led to the successful joint investigation by 4 5 the State of Mississippi, the Federal Bureau of In-6 vestigation, and the Department of Justice in 2004, 7 the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil 8 Rights Crime Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–344; 9 122 Stat. 3934), signed into law by President 10 George W. Bush, and the Emmett Till Unsolved 11 Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 12 (Public Law 114–325; 130 Stat. 1965), signed into 13 law by President Barack Obama.

(11) The people of the United States honor the
legacy of Emmett Till and the incredible suffering
and equally incredible courage, resilience, and efforts
of Mamie Till-Mobley that led to the civil rights
movement that began in the 1950s.

19 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 posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,
of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration
of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

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1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the 2 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary 3 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Sec-4 retary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, 5 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-6 retary. The design shall bear an image of, and inscriptions 7 of the name of, "Emmett Till" and "Mamie Till-Mobley".

8 (c) Award of Medal.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold
10 medal referred to in subsection (a), the gold medal
11 shall be given to the National Museum of African
12 American History and Culture, where it shall be dis13 played as appropriate.

14 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
15 Congress that the National Museum of African
16 American History and Culture should make the gold
17 medal received under paragraph (1) available for
18 display elsewhere, particularly at other locations and
19 events associated with Emmett Till and Mamie Till20 Mobley.

21 SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
3 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
4 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.
8 SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF
9 SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
this Act.

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

Passed the Senate January 10, 2022. Attest:

Secretary.

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