

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 91

AN ACT

To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

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 “Forgotten Heroes of
3 the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The following diplomats will be honored
7 posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria
8 Barreto Bustíos (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden),
9 Philippe Bernardini (Vatican/Italy), Hiram (Harry)
10 Bingham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Swit-
11 zerland), Gilberto Bosques Saldivar (Mexico), Carlos
12 de Liz-Teixeira Branquinho (Portugal), Samuel del
13 Campo (Chile), Aracy de Carvalho Guimarães Rosa
14 (Brazil), Jose Arturo Castellanos Contreras (El Sal-
15 vador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis Mar-
16 tins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand
17 Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland),
18 Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-
19 Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida
20 Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond
21 Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho (Re-
22 public of China), Constantin Karadja (Romania),
23 Alexander Kasser (Sandor Kasza) (Sweden), Elow
24 Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman
25 (Netherlands), Julius Kuhl (Poland), Aleksander
26 Łados (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Sweden),

1 Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George Mandel-
 2 Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu (Romania),
 3 Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador), Salomon
 4 Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio (Jorge)
 5 Perlasca (Spain/Italy), Ernst Prodoliet (Switzer-
 6 land), Eduardo Propper de Callejon (Spain), Franjo
 7 Puncuch (Yugoslavia/Slovenia), Konstanty Rokicki
 8 (Poland), Sebastian de Romero Radigales (Spain),
 9 Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Vatican/Italy), Angelo
 10 Rotta (Vatican/Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey/
 11 France), Jose Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Stefan
 12 Ryniewicz (Poland), Angel Sanz-Briz (Spain), Abdol-
 13 Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk Slawik (Poland),
 14 Robert Smallbones (United Kingdom), Aristides de
 15 Sousa Mendes (Portugal), Jan Spisiak (Slovakia),
 16 Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara (Japan), Ireanaeus
 17 Typaldos (Spain), Alexander (Sandor) Ujvary (Vati-
 18 can/Hungary), Selahattin Ulkumen (Turkey),
 19 Gennaro Verolino (Vatican/Italy), Vladimir Vochoč
 20 (Czech Republic), Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland),
 21 Raoul Wallenberg (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy),
 22 Peter Zurcher (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk
 23 (Netherlands).

24 (2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and
 25 the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which

1 started World War II and threw the world into
2 chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish
3 population was in full motion. As battles were being
4 fought between countries, Jews were being rounded
5 up and sent to concentration camps throughout Eu-
6 rope. This process began a mass exodus of people
7 out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish com-
8 munity.

9 (3) During the war, members of the Jewish
10 community used every tool and means at their dis-
11 posal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee
12 on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

13 (4) While the armies of countries were fighting
14 each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the
15 world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to
16 save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly
17 dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the ac-
18 tions of these diplomats they would be expelled, as
19 a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the
20 Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers
21 and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict
22 orders from their home countries to not aid the Jew-
23 ish population in any way.

24 (5) These diplomats used every means at their
25 disposal to help Jews fleeing persecution. One of the

1 most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was
2 the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to
3 the instruction of the governments of the diplomats.
4 This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds
5 of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was
6 not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were
7 connected with the local populations and were great
8 communicators for Jews trying to travel under-
9 ground. They were able set up safehouses and
10 getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children
11 from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of
12 times, several of these diplomats confronted the
13 Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally
14 put themselves in grave danger.

15 (6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew
16 what they were up against, and still pushed forward
17 to save those in the most danger.

18 (7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized
19 under this Act will help remind humanity that when
20 the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they
21 went beyond the fold, including risking their careers
22 and the lives of themselves and their families, to en-
23 gage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of
24 today and future generations can look towards these

1 heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and
2 sacrifice.

3 (8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as
4 stating or implying that this group of honorees en-
5 compasses everyone who took this type of heroic ac-
6 tion during this era. As the title attests, the “For-
7 gotten Heroes” performed these deeds out of right-
8 eousness, with no expectation of public acclaim. The
9 sponsors of this Act wish to honor this group of in-
10 dividuals for whose deeds the historical record is
11 currently definitive and well-documented. Given that
12 historical research is ongoing, in the event that ro-
13 bust documentation from professional historians, ex-
14 pert stakeholders, and public input identify others
15 worthy of official recognition, future Congresses re-
16 tain the right to recognize additional forgotten he-
17 roes of the Holocaust pursuant to future legislation.

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

19 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
20 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
21 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
22 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single
23 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 dip-
24 lomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their

1 brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War
2 II.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
4 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
5 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
6 retary”) shall strike a single gold medal with suitable em-
7 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
8 Secretary.

9 (c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The single gold
10 medal presented under subsection (a) shall be presented
11 collectively to the eldest next of kin of each of the 60 dip-
12 lomats identified in section 2(1), who shall receive the
13 medal as part of a delegation consisting of a senior official
14 representative of the country that each diplomat served
15 and the cochairs of the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust
16 Committee.

17 (d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MU-
18 SEUM.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
20 gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified
21 in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the
22 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where
23 it will be available for display as appropriate and
24 available for research.

1 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
2 Congress that the United States Holocaust Memo-
3 rial Museum should make the gold medal awarded
4 pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere,
5 particularly at appropriate locations associated with
6 Holocaust remembrance.

7 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

12 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

13 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to
14 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
15 of title 31, United States Code.

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

20 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
21 **SALE.**

22 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
23 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
24 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-

1 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
2 this Act.

3 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
4 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
5 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
6 Enterprise Fund.

Passed the Senate September 24, 2024.

Attest:

Secretary.

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