

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3557

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2000

Mr. FOSSELLA (for himself, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. DELAY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. OWENS, Mr. QUINN, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SAXTON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. TLAHRT, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. CAMP, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. COYNE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. WOLF, Mr. WALSH, Mr. COBURN, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. WAMP, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. LAZIO, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. WEINER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. VITTER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. HYDE, Mr. DICKEY, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor is a
6 man of deep compassion, great intellect, and tireless
7 devotion to both spiritual guidance and humani-
8 tarianism.

9 (2) John Joseph O'Connor was born on Janu-
10 ary 15, 1920, in southwest Philadelphia, the son of
11 Thomas J. O'Connor and Mary Gimple O'Connor.

12 (3) John Cardinal O'Connor joined the Navy
13 Chaplains Corps in June 1952 during the Korean
14 Conflict, served with elements of both the Navy and
15 the Marine Corps, and saw combat action in Viet-
16 nam. He later served as chaplain of the United
17 States Naval Academy and was appointed as Chief
18 of Chaplains of the Navy with the grade of rear ad-
19 miral, from which position he retired four years
20 later, in May 1979. He was ordained a Bishop by
21 Pope John Paul II on May 27, 1979. He then
22 served as Vicar General of the Military Ordinariate
23 (now the Archdiocese for the Military Services) until
24 1984.

1 (4) John Cardinal O'Connor became Bishop of
2 Scranton, Pennsylvania, on May 10, 1983, was
3 named Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of
4 New York on January 31, 1984, and was elevated
5 to the rank of Cardinal by Pope John Paul II on
6 May 25, 1985.

7 (5) John Cardinal O'Connor has demonstrated
8 an unwavering commitment to public and parochial
9 school education. He has supported and strength-
10 ened Catholic schools in their mission to provide a
11 quality education to students of all races, ethnic
12 backgrounds, and religions in the Archdiocese of
13 New York and throughout the Nation.

14 (6) John Cardinal O'Connor has provided com-
15 fort and care to the sick, the elderly, and the dis-
16 abled and provided millions of people with spiritual
17 and emotional support. He lead the effort to open
18 New York State's first AIDS-only unit at St.
19 Claire's Hospital, remaining a frequent visitor and
20 volunteer at the hospital.

21 (7) Throughout his life, John Cardinal O'Con-
22 nor has also served on behalf of the poor and the op-
23 pressed, as exemplified by his assistance on behalf of
24 famine victims in Ethiopia and victims in war-torn
25 Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1 (8) Throughout his career, John Cardinal
2 O'Connor has been a strong advocate of interfaith
3 healing and understanding, particularly among indi-
4 viduals of the Catholic and Jewish faiths, and has
5 played a significant role in helping to establish diplo-
6 matic ties between the Vatican and Israel.

7 (9) John Cardinal O'Connor took the inspiring
8 words of the Declaration of Independence—"Life,
9 Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"—and trans-
10 formed them into a statement of purpose. He has
11 dedicated his life's work to protecting and defending
12 these inalienable rights of all people.

13 (10) John Cardinal O'Connor celebrated his
14 80th birthday on January 15, 2000, and has dis-
15 played remarkable courage and the true power of his
16 faith in carrying on his life's work in the face of life-
17 threatening illness.

18 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

19 (a) **PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.**—The President is
20 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold
21 medal of appropriate design to John Cardinal O'Connor,
22 Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplish-
23 ments as a priest, a soldier, and a humanitarian.

24 (b) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For the purpose of the
25 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary

1 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
2 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
3 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
4 Secretary.

5 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

6 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
7 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
8 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price
9 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
10 materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and
11 the cost of the gold medal.

12 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

15 **SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

16 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is hereby authorized to
17 be charged against the United States Mint Public Enter-
18 prise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for
19 the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

20 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
21 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
22 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
23 Fund.

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