

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2078

To authorize the President to award gold medals on behalf of the Congress to the family of Andrew Jackson Higgins and the wartime employees of Higgins Industries, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation and to the Allied victory in World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2001

Mr. JEFFERSON (for himself, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. McCRERY, Mr. BAKER, Mr. JOHN, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. FROST, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. BACA, Mr. REYES, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. COYNE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. BUYER, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. FORD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to award gold medals on behalf of the Congress to the family of Andrew Jackson Higgins and the wartime employees of Higgins Industries, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation and to the Allied victory in World War II.

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) Andrew Jackson Higgins designed, engi-
6 neered, and produced high speed boats and various
7 types of amphibious military landing craft, later to
8 become known as “Higgins boats”, which were used
9 by Allied forces during World War II.

10 (2) Higgins boats, constructed of wood and
11 steel, transported fully-armed troops, light tanks,
12 field artillery, and other mechanized equipment es-
13 sential to Allied amphibious operations, including
14 the decisive D-Day attack at Normandy, France.

15 (3) Andrew Jackson Higgins also designed, en-
16 gineered, and constructed four major assembly line
17 plants in New Orleans for mass production of Hig-
18 gins landing craft and other vessels vital to the Al-
19 lied forces’ conduct of World War II.

1 (4) Andrew Jackson Higgins' foresight, in pur-
2 chasing the materials needed to produce a large
3 number of boats even before the United States be-
4 came embroiled in World War II, contributed to the
5 Nation's readiness when it finally did enter the war.

6 (5) Andrew Jackson Higgins instituted a pro-
7 gressive social policy in his Higgins Industries fac-
8 tories by employing a fully-integrated assembly line
9 work force of more than 20,000 black and white
10 men and women during World War II, with equal
11 pay for equal work, decades before legal require-
12 ments for integration and racial and gender equality
13 were instituted.

14 (6) Prior to November 1940, when Higgins In-
15 dustries began producing Higgins boats for the
16 United States Government, the Navy had only 18
17 landing craft in its fleet; by the conclusion of the
18 war, Higgins Industries had produced 20,094 land-
19 ing craft of all types and had trained more than
20 30,000 Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel in
21 their use.

22 (7) In 1964, former President Dwight D. Ei-
23 senhower said of Andrew Jackson Higgins, "He is
24 the man who won the war for us. If Higgins had not
25 developed and produced those landing craft, we

1 never could have gone in over an open beach. We
2 would have had to change the entire strategy of the
3 war.”

4 (8) Together, Andrew Jackson Higgins and the
5 employees of Higgins Industries provided a decisive
6 and essential contribution to the United States and
7 Allied victory in World War II while practicing racial
8 and gender workplace equality far in advance of the
9 norm for the time.

10 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.**

11 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
12 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress—

13 (1) a gold medal of appropriate design to the
14 family of Andrew Jackson Higgins in recognition of
15 his contributions to the Nation and to the Allied vic-
16 tory in World War II;

17 (2) a gold medal identical to the medal referred
18 to in paragraph (1) to the D-Day Museum in New
19 Orleans, Louisiana, for public display; and

20 (3) a gold medal of appropriate design to the
21 D-Day Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, in honor
22 of the World War II employees of Higgins Industries
23 and in recognition of their contributions to the Na-
24 tion and to the Allied victory in World War II.

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

7 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

14 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

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

18 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is hereby authorized to
19 be charged against the United States Mint Public Enter-
20 prise Fund an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to pay for
21 the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

22 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
23 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be

- 1 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
- 2 Fund.

