

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 254

To award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 10, 2007

Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to  
Constantino Brumidi.

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       Congress finds the following:

5               (1) On July 26, 1805, Constantino Brumidi  
6       was born in Rome, Italy of an Italian mother and  
7       a Greek father who inspired him with a love of lib-  
8       erty.

9               (2) While Constantino Brumidi's Greek ances-  
10       try stirred his passion for liberty and citizenship, his

1 Italian heritage provided the art styles of the Ren-  
2 aissance and the Baroque which influenced the art-  
3 work of the United States Capitol.

4 (3) Constantino Brumidi became a citizen of  
5 the United States as soon as he was able, embracing  
6 its history, values, and ideals.

7 (4) Beginning in 1855, Constantino Brumidi  
8 designed and decorated 1 House and 5 Senate com-  
9 mittee rooms in the Capitol, as well as the Senate  
10 Reception Room, the Office of the Vice President,  
11 and, most notably, the President’s Room, which rep-  
12 resents Brumidi’s supreme effort “to make beautiful  
13 the Capitol” of the United States.

14 (5) In 1865, Constantino Brumidi completed in  
15 just 11 months his masterpiece, “The Apotheosis of  
16 Washington”, in the eye of the Capitol dome.

17 (6) In 1871, Constantino Brumidi created the  
18 first tribute to an African American in the Capitol  
19 when he placed the figure of Crispus Attucks at the  
20 center of his fresco of the Boston Massacre.

21 (7) In 1878, Constantino Brumidi, at the age  
22 of 72 and in poor health, began work on the Ro-  
23 tunda frieze, which chronicles the history of Amer-  
24 ica.

1           (8) On February 19, 1880, Constantino  
2           Brumidi died at the age of 74, four and a half  
3           months after slipping and nearly falling from a scaf-  
4           fold while working on the Rotunda frieze.

5           (9) Constantino Brumidi, proud of his artistic  
6           accomplishments and devoted to his adopted coun-  
7           try, said, “My one ambition and my daily prayer is  
8           that I may live long enough to make beautiful the  
9           Capitol of the one country on earth in which there  
10          is liberty.”.

11          (10) Constantino Brumidi’s life and work exem-  
12          plify the lives of millions of immigrants who came to  
13          pursue the American dream.

14 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15          (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—

16          (1) IN GENERAL.—The Speaker of the House of  
17          Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of  
18          the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for  
19          the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,  
20          of a gold medal of appropriate design to Constantino  
21          Brumidi, in recognition of his contributions to the  
22          Nation.

23          (2) DISPLAY OF MEDAL IN CAPITOL VISITOR  
24          CENTER.—The Architect of the Capitol shall arrange  
25          for the gold medal presented under this subsection

1 to be displayed in the Capitol Visitor Center, as part  
2 of an exhibit honoring Constantino Brumidi.

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 gold medal with suitable emblems,  
7 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-  
8 retary.

9 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

10 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
11 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2  
12 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
13 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
14 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
15 and the cost of the gold medal.

16 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

20 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
21 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
22 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
2 **SALE.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is  
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
5 Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be nec-  
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant  
7 to this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
10 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
11 Enterprise Fund.

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