

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 360

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, in recognition of the 50th commemoration of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church where the 4 little Black girls lost their lives, which served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, in recognition of the 50th commemoration of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church where the 4 little Black girls lost their lives, which served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

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:

1 (1) September 15, 2013 will mark 50 years
2 since the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair,
3 Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley were sud-
4 denly taken by a bomb planted in the Sixteenth
5 Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

6 (2) The senseless and premature death of these
7 4 little Black girls sparked “The Movement that
8 Changed the World.”

9 (3) On that tragic Sunday in September of
10 1963, the world took notice of the violence inflicted
11 in the struggle for equal rights.

12 (4) The fact that 4 innocent children lost their
13 lives as they prepared for Sunday School shook the
14 world’s conscience.

15 (5) This tragedy galvanized the Civil Rights
16 Movement and sparked a surge of momentum that
17 helped secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of
18 1964 and later the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by
19 President Lyndon B. Johnson.

20 (6) Justice was delayed for these 4 little Black
21 girls and their families until 2002, 39 years after
22 the bombing, when the last of the 4 Klansmen re-
23 sponsible for the bombing was charged and convicted
24 with the crime.

1 (7) The 4 little Black girls are emblematic of
2 so many who have lost their lives for the cause of
3 freedom and equality, including Virgil Ware and
4 James Johnny Robinson who were children also
5 killed within hours of the 1963 church bombing.

6 (8) The legacy that these 4 little Black girls left
7 will live on in the minds and hearts of us all for gen-
8 erations to come.

9 (9) Their extraordinary sacrifice sparked real
10 and lasting change as Congress began to aggres-
11 sively pass legislation that ensured equality.

12 (10) Sixteenth Street Baptist Church remains a
13 powerful symbol of the movement for civil and
14 human rights and will host the 50th anniversary
15 ceremony on Sunday, September 15, 2013.

16 (11) It is befitting that Congress bestow the
17 highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold
18 Medal, in 2013 to the 4 little Black girls, Addie Mae
19 Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cyn-
20 thia Wesley, posthumously in recognition of the 50th
21 commemoration of the historical significance of the
22 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

23 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
25 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-

1 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
 2 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
 3 medal of appropriate design to commemorate the lives of
 4 Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and
 5 Cynthia Wesley.

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

12 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

19 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

23 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
 24 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals

1 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
2 items.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
4 **SALE.**

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

10 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
11 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
12 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
13 Enterprise Fund.

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