

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2886

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in an effort to bring justice and equality to Americans in Mississippi during Freedom Summer.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

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

A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in an effort to bring justice and equality to Americans in Mississippi during Freedom Summer.

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) June 21, 2014, marks 50 years since the
6 lives of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Mi-

1 chael Schwerner were brutally taken on the basis of
2 racism and hatred.

3 (2) Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner were as-
4 sisting Congress of Racial Equality in Mississippi
5 during the Freedom Summer of 1964, wherein they
6 risked their lives leading voting registration efforts
7 for people who were denied the right to vote.

8 (3) Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner were im-
9 prisoned in Neshoba County, Mississippi, without
10 due process and released into the dead of the night
11 into the hands of Klansmen.

12 (4) The disappearance of these devoted civil
13 rights activists captured national attention and led
14 to an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Inves-
15 tigation.

16 (5) Following a 44-day search by Federal
17 agents, the grim remains of James Chaney, Andrew
18 Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were discovered in
19 an earthen dam.

20 (6) This tragedy galvanized momentum for the
21 Civil Rights Movement and helped to secure the pas-
22 sage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and later the
23 Voting Rights Act of 1965 and led to the first per-
24 manent Federal Bureau of Investigation field office
25 in the State of Mississippi.

1 (7) Justice was delayed 41 years, to the day,
2 for these three brave men and their families until a
3 Neshoba County jury found 1 of the 18 men origi-
4 nally charged in the case guilty on three counts of
5 murder.

6 (8) These three valiant activists are representa-
7 tive of countless individuals who lost their lives on
8 a quest for justice and equality, including Henry
9 Hezekiah Dee and Charles Eddie More whose bodies
10 were also found during the massive search for
11 Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner.

12 (9) Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner's legacy
13 of advocacy and unyielding resolve for justice in the
14 face of peril is one that continues to be embodied in
15 young adults across this great country.

16 (10) It is befitting that Congress bestow the
17 highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold
18 Medal, in 2014 to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman,
19 and Michael Schwerner, posthumously in recognition
20 of the 50th commemoration of their kidnapping and
21 subsequent murders.

22 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

23 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
24 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore
25 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the

1 presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of
2 appropriate design, collectively, to James Chaney, Andrew
3 Goodman, and Michael Schwerner to commemorate the
4 lives they lost 50 years ago in an effort to bring justice
5 and equality to Americans in Mississippi during Freedom
6 Summer.

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

13 (c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the award of the
14 gold medal described in subsection (a), the medal shall be
15 given to Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, where
16 it shall be available for display or temporary loan to be
17 displayed elsewhere, as appropriate.

18 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell
20 duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under sec-
21 tion 2, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medal,
22 including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and
23 overhead expenses.

1 (b) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
2 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
3 of title 31, United States Code.

4 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
5 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
6 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
7 items.

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