

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 381

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. NELSON, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

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 that—

5 (1) on April 18, 1942, the brave men of the
6 17th Bombardment Group (Medium) became known
7 as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” for outstanding

1 heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United
2 States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo;

3 (2) 80 brave American aircraft crewmen, led by
4 Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, volunteered for
5 an “extremely hazardous mission”, without knowing
6 the target, location, or assignment, and willingly put
7 their lives in harm’s way, risking death, capture, and
8 torture;

9 (3) the conduct of medium bomber operations
10 from a Navy aircraft carrier under combat condi-
11 tions had never before been attempted;

12 (4) after the discovery of the USS Hornet by
13 Japanese picket ships 170 miles further away from
14 the prearranged launch point, the Doolittle Tokyo
15 Raiders proceeded to take off 670 miles from the
16 coast of Japan;

17 (5) by launching more than 100 miles beyond
18 the distance considered to be minimally safe for the
19 mission, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders deliberately ac-
20 cepted the risk that the B-25s might not have
21 enough fuel to reach the designated air-fields in
22 China on return;

23 (6) the additional launch distance greatly in-
24 creased the risk of crash landing in Japanese occu-

1 pied China, exposing the crews to higher probability
2 of death, injury, or capture;

3 (7) because of that deliberate choice, after
4 bombing their targets in Japan, low on fuel and in
5 setting night and deteriorating weather, none of the
6 16 airplanes reached the prearranged Chinese air-
7 fields;

8 (8) of the 80 Doolittle Tokyo Raiders who
9 launched on the raid, 8 were captured, 2 died in the
10 crash, and 70 returned to the United States;

11 (9) of the 8 captured Doolittle Tokyo Raiders,
12 3 were executed and 1 died of disease; and

13 (10) there were only 5 surviving members of
14 the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders as of February 2013.

15 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

16 (a) AWARD.—

17 (1) AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tempore
18 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements
20 for the award, on behalf of Congress, of 6 gold med-
21 als of appropriate design in honor of the World War
22 II members of the 17th Bombardment Group (Me-
23 dium) who became known as the “Doolittle Tokyo
24 Raiders”, in recognition of their military service dur-
25 ing World War II.

1 (2) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes
2 of the award referred to in paragraph (1), the Sec-
3 retary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medals
4 with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to
5 be determined by the Secretary.

6 (3) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of
8 the gold medal referred to in paragraph (1) in
9 honor of the World War II members of the
10 17th Bombardment Group (Medium), who be-
11 came known as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”,
12 the gold medals shall be given to the 5 sur-
13 viving members of the mission, with a sixth
14 medal to be given to the National Museum of
15 the United States Air Force, where it shall be
16 displayed with the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders
17 Goblets, as appropriate, and made available for
18 research.

19 (B) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense
20 of Congress that the National Museum of the
21 United States Air Force should make the gold
22 medal received under this paragraph available
23 for display elsewhere, particularly at other loca-
24 tions and events associated with the Doolittle
25 Tokyo Raiders.

1 (b) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under such regulations
2 as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike
3 and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck
4 under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of
5 the medals, including labor, materials, dyes, use of ma-
6 chinery, and overhead expenses.

7 (c) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck pursuant to
8 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
9 of title 31, United States Code.

10 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**
11 **OF SALE.**

12 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
14 Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed \$30,000
15 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized under section
16 2.

17 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
18 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 2(b) shall
19 be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
20 Fund.

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