

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3545

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the military intelligence professionals at Camp Ritchie, commonly known as the “Ritchie Boys”, in recognition of their groundbreaking contributions to the field of human intelligence and their outstanding service during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2023

Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. TIMMONS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the military intelligence professionals at Camp Ritchie, commonly known as the “Ritchie Boys”, in recognition of their groundbreaking contributions to the field of human intelligence and their outstanding service during 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ritchie Boys Congres-
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Ritchie Boys were a group of approxi-
4 mately 15,200 servicemembers who trained in
5 United States Army Intelligence methods at Camp
6 Ritchie, Maryland, during World War II.

7 (2) Most of the men and women assigned to
8 Camp Ritchie possessed critical language skills in
9 German, Polish, Italian, French, and other lan-
10 guages that became an asset to allied forces during
11 the war.

12 (3) Approximately 14 percent of the Ritchie
13 Boys were Jewish refugees from Germany and Aus-
14 tria who had detailed knowledge of German cultural
15 attitudes and communication.

16 (4) The Ritchie Boys were trained in methods
17 of human intelligence, including groundbreaking
18 techniques in interrogation, counterintelligence, and
19 psychological warfare that leveraged cultural knowl-
20 edge as a tool for building rapport with prisoners.

21 (5) Consequently, the Ritchie Boys were able to
22 gather vital intelligence regarding the hierarchy,
23 strategies, motivations, and attitudes of the German
24 military.

25 (6) The Ritchie Boys who completed training at
26 Camp Ritchie went on to serve in units on the front

1 lines in Europe, conducting human intelligence oper-
2 ations and analyzing German military plans to pro-
3 vide strategic intelligence to commanders in the
4 field.

5 (7) The Ritchie Boys also conducted counter-
6 intelligence operations aimed at demoralizing the
7 enemy and convincing German soldiers to abandon
8 their units.

9 (8) After the war, many of the Ritchie Boys
10 helped shape American culture and society through
11 their continued work in the intelligence community
12 as well as governance, academia, and other fields.

13 (9) A United States Army report found that ap-
14 proximately 60 percent of the actionable intelligence
15 gathered in Europe during the war came from the
16 Ritchie Boys.

17 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

18 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
19 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
20 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
21 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of ap-
22 propriate design to the military intelligence professionals
23 at Camp Ritchie, commonly known as the “Ritchie Boys”,
24 in recognition of their groundbreaking contributions to the

1 field of human intelligence and their outstanding service
2 during World War II.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
4 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
5 Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable em-
6 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
7 Secretary.

8 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
10 gold medal in honor of the military intelligence pro-
11 fessionals, the “Ritchie Boys”, the gold medal shall
12 be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it
13 shall be available for display as appropriate and
14 made available for research.

15 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
16 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
17 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
18 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other
19 locations associated with the Ritchie Boys.

20 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

21 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
22 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price
23 sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals, includ-
24 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead
25 expenses.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 The gold medal struck pursuant to this Act is a na-
3 tional medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United
4 States Code.

5 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
6 **SALE.**

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

12 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
13 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
14 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
15 Enterprise Fund.

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