

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 537

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 12, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

AN ACT

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in
recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Hol-
ocaust.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Forgotten Heroes of
3 the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The following diplomats will be honored
7 posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria
8 Barreto (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden), Philippe
9 Bernardini (Vatican / Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bing-
10 ham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzer-
11 land), Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador),
12 Carlos de Liz-Texeira Branquinho (Portugal),
13 Eduardo Propper de Callejón (Spain), Samuel del
14 Campo (Chile), Aracy Moebius Carvalho de
15 Guimarães Rosa (Brazil), José Arturo Castellanos
16 (El Salvador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis
17 Martins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand
18 Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland),
19 Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-
20 Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida
21 Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond
22 Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho
23 (China), Constantin Karadjia (Romania), Alexander
24 Kasser (Sándor Kasza) (Sweden / Hungary), Elow
25 Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman
26 (Netherlands), Julius Kühl (Switzerland),

1 Aleksander Ładoś (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Swe-
 2 den), Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George
 3 Mandel-Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu
 4 (Romania), Aristides de Sousa Mendes (Portugal),
 5 Salomon Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio
 6 (Jorge) Perlasca (Spain / Italy), Ernst Prodolliet
 7 (Switzerland), Franjo Punčuch (Yugoslavia / Slo-
 8 venia), Sebastián de Romero Radigales (Spain),
 9 Konstanty Rokicki (Poland), Angelo Giuseppe
 10 Roncalli (Vatican / Italy), Angelo Rotta (Vatican /
 11 Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey), Stefan
 12 Ryniewicz (Poland), Gilberto Bosques Saldívar
 13 (Mexico), José Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Ángel Sanz-
 14 Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk
 15 Slawik (Poland), Robert Smallbones (United King-
 16 dom), Ján Spišiak (Slovakia), Chiune (Sempo)
 17 Sugihara (Japan), Ireanaeus Typaldos (Spain),
 18 Alexander (Sándor) Újváry (Vatican / Hungary),
 19 Selahattin Ülkümen (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino
 20 (Vatican / Italy), Vladimír Vochoč (Czech Republic),
 21 Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg
 22 (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zürcher
 23 (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk (Holland).

24 (2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and
 25 the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which

1 started World War II and threw the world into
2 chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish
3 population was in full motion. As battles were being
4 fought between countries, Jews were being rounded
5 up and sent to concentration camps throughout Eu-
6 rope. This process began a mass exodus of people
7 out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish com-
8 munity.

9 (3) During the war, members of the Jewish
10 community used every tool and means at their dis-
11 posal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee
12 on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

13 (4) While the armies of countries were fighting
14 each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the
15 world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to
16 save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly
17 dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the ac-
18 tions of these diplomats they would be expelled, as
19 a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the
20 Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers
21 and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict
22 orders from their home countries to not aid the Jew-
23 ish population in any way.

24 (5) These diplomats used every means at their
25 disposal to help Jews fleeing persecution. One of the

1 most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was
2 the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to
3 the instruction of the governments of the diplomats.
4 This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds
5 of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was
6 not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were
7 connected with the local populations and were great
8 communicators for Jews trying to travel under-
9 ground. They were able set up safehouses and
10 getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children
11 from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of
12 times, several of these diplomats confronted the
13 Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally
14 put themselves in grave danger.

15 (6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew
16 what they were up against, and still pushed forward
17 to save those in the most danger.

18 (7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized
19 under this Act will help remind humanity that when
20 the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they
21 went beyond the fold, including risking their careers
22 and the lives of themselves and their families, to en-
23 gage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of
24 today and future generations can look towards these

1 heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and
2 sacrifice.

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

4 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
5 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
6 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
7 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single
8 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 dip-
9 lomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their
10 brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War
11 II.

12 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
13 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
14 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
15 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
16 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
17 retary.

18 (c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The single gold
19 medal presented under subsection (a) shall be presented
20 collectively to the eldest next of kin of each of the 60 dip-
21 lomats identified in section 2(1), who shall receive the
22 medal as part of a delegation consisting of a senior official
23 representative of the country that each diplomat served
24 and the cochairs of the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust
25 Committee.

1 (d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MU-
2 SEUM.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
4 gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified
5 in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the
6 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where
7 it will be available for display as appropriate and
8 available for research.

9 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
10 Congress that the United States Holocaust Memo-
11 rial Museum should make the gold medal awarded
12 pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere,
13 particularly at appropriate locations associated with
14 Holocaust remembrance.

15 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

16 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
17 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price
18 sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, mate-
19 rials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

20 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

21 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to
22 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
23 of title 31, United States Code.

24 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
25 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. 6. 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 under
9 this Act.

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

Passed the House of Representatives June 11, 2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.