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1ST SESSION

H. R. 3760

To award posthumously a congressional gold medal to Charles B. Rangel, an American trailblazer and public servant, in recognition of his remarkable life and career in which he elevated the voices and interests of underserved communities, bolstered the United States reputation on the global stage, and co-founded the Congressional Black Caucus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2025

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mr. NEAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award posthumously a congressional gold medal to Charles B. Rangel, an American trailblazer and public servant, in recognition of his remarkable life and career in which he elevated the voices and interests of underserved communities, bolstered the United States reputation on the global stage, and co-founded the Congressional Black Caucus.

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 “Charles B. Rangel
3 Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Charles Bernard Rangel, born on June 11,
7 1930, in Harlem, New York City, was raised largely
8 by his mother Blanche Mary Wharton Rangel and
9 grandfather Charles Wharton alongside his older
10 brother Ralph Jr. and younger sister Frances.

11 (2) After dropping out of high school at age 16,
12 Rangel enlisted in the United States Army and
13 served as an artillery operations specialist in the all-
14 black 503rd Field Artillery Battalion in the 2nd In-
15 fantry Division from 1948 to 1952 during the Ko-
16 rean War.

17 (3) During the Battle of Kunu-ri near the Yalu
18 River on the border of China and North Korea, Ran-
19 gel and his fellow soldiers were encircled by Chinese
20 military forces and were subsequently ordered to
21 withdraw by their command.

22 (4) Upon receiving the withdrawal order, then-
23 Private First Class Rangel was injured by shrapnel
24 from a barrage of Chinese shells, which struck his
25 back and triggered disarray amongst his comrades.

1 (5) Despite his serious injuries, rank, and an
2 encircled position behind enemy lines, in the middle
3 of the night Rangel led his unit of an estimated 40
4 men through a mountain pass to safety.

5 (6) For his bravery and sacrifice, Rangel was
6 bestowed the Bronze Star with Valor and Purple
7 Heart, as well as receiving overwhelming admiration,
8 appreciation, and lasting respect from his comrades.
9 When asked to reflect on the harrowing episode,
10 Rangel often noted that he had “not had a bad day
11 since,” a phrase that he adopted as the title of his
12 autobiography.

13 (7) Upon his honorable discharge from the
14 Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant, Rangel re-
15 turned to Harlem, finished high school, and used his
16 G.I. bill to obtain a Bachelor of Science from New
17 York University where he made the Dean’s list. He
18 subsequently received a full scholarship to attend St.
19 John’s University School of Law, from which he
20 graduated in 1960.

21 (8) After a tenure in private practice, Rangel
22 was appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney in the South-
23 ern District of New York by U.S. Attorney General
24 Robert F. Kennedy. After leaving the role, Rangel
25 served as Associate Counsel to the Speaker of the

1 New York State Assembly, a law clerk to Judge
2 James L. Watson on the United States Court of
3 International Trade, and as General Counsel to the
4 National Advisory Commission on Selective Service.

5 (9) The positions he took early in his career en-
6 sured that Rangel would always remain in close
7 proximity to his roots in Harlem, where he met his
8 wife, Alma Carter, a social worker, in the mid-1950s
9 at the Savoy Ballroom. Their loving marriage
10 stretched more than 60 years and included two chil-
11 dren, Steven and Alicia; daughter-in-law, Adelina,
12 son-in-law, Howard; and three grandsons, Howard
13 R. Haughton, Joshua R. Haughton, and Charles R.
14 Haughton.

15 (10) Rangel's early political marks can be found
16 on matters and missions of profound significance.
17 He participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery
18 March, was elected to replace his mentor, Percy Sut-
19 ton, in the New York State Assembly, and was one
20 of the pillars in New York's generational political
21 powerhouse, "The Gang of Four," which included
22 New York State Senator Basil Paterson, Manhattan
23 Borough President and Civil Rights Leader Percy
24 Sutton, and David Dinkins, the first black mayor of
25 New York City.

1 (11) Following his election to the U.S. House
2 of Representatives in 1970, Rangel quickly rose
3 through the ranks of the Congressional Democrats
4 and was ultimately reelected 23 times.

5 (12) Shortly after his induction to the House in
6 early 1971, Rangel, along with 12 other Black Mem-
7 bers of Congress founded the Congressional Black
8 Caucus. He was elected by his colleagues to lead the
9 Caucus as Chairman in 1974.

10 (13) Rangel energized the national discussion
11 around drug trafficking, later becoming Chairman of
12 the Select Committee on Narcotics, and was a
13 prominent contributor to the House Judiciary Com-
14 mittee's work on the Watergate scandal.

15 (14) Due to his growing influence, Rangel was
16 granted a position on the coveted Ways and Means
17 Committee and was elevated to serve as Speaker Tip
18 O'Neill's Deputy Majority Whip.

19 (15) Rangel used his newfound power in Con-
20 gress to secure Federal support for programs that
21 benefited his congressional district and other con-
22 stituencies.

23 (16) He authored and supported legislation and
24 programs that uplifted vulnerable populations like
25 Child Care and Development Block Grants, the Low-

1 Income Housing Tax Credit, the Earned Income
2 Tax Credit, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Em-
3 powerment Zones, and Temporary Assistance for
4 Needy Families.

5 (17) He introduced measures to ensure that
6 human rights and democratic principles were re-
7 flected in international business activity, including
8 an amendment rescinding tax credits for companies
9 doing business in apartheid South Africa.

10 (18) To ensure that the diplomatic corps re-
11 flected the diversity of the nation, Rangel established
12 the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellow-
13 ship Program in partnership with Howard Univer-
14 sity, which now has more than 200 alumni serving
15 in posts around the world.

16 (19) Rangel was also the primary force behind
17 the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA),
18 the first bill to provide incentives for U.S. trade with
19 sub-Saharan Africa, which he authored and ad-
20 vanced despite significant political headwinds. He
21 subsequently worked with President George W. Bush
22 to pass the AGOA Acceleration Act, which
23 synergized and expanded on his earlier efforts that
24 instituted the trade program.

1 (20) Rangel similarly forged a sequence of
2 trade agreements and programs pertaining to Latin
3 America and the Caribbean, including the Haiti
4 HOPE-HELP program, the Caribbean Basin Initia-
5 tive, Central America-Dominican Republic Free
6 Trade Agreement, and the Caribbean Basin Trade
7 Partnership Act.

8 (21) Rangel was a lifelong champion for vet-
9 erans, particularly servicemembers who historically
10 faced discrimination both in uniform and upon re-
11 turning home. As a decorated Korean War veteran
12 himself, Rangel often leaned on his personal experi-
13 ence and legislative authority to spotlight the needs
14 of underserved veterans and ensure they received the
15 benefits, respect, and opportunities they earned
16 through their service. Rangel spearheaded legislation
17 to close systemic gaps in Federal veterans programs,
18 establish the Office of Minority Veterans, expand ac-
19 cess to VA services, and strengthen the G.I. Bill,
20 veterans housing programs, and small business op-
21 portunities.

22 (22) As one of the few Korean War veterans
23 serving in Congress, Rangel sponsored and secured
24 enactment of legislation establishing National Ko-
25 rean War Veterans Armistice Day on July 27, in the

1 United States Flag Code to honor his fellow vet-
2 erans. He also deepened United States-Korea rela-
3 tions through founding the Congressional Caucus on
4 Korea, facilitating passage of the United States-
5 Korea Free Trade Agreement, and passing resolu-
6 tions that strengthen the bilateral strategic alliance,
7 promote peace and stability on the Korean Penin-
8 sula, and support Korean American family reunifica-
9 tion efforts.

10 (23) As Dean of the New York Congressional
11 Delegation, he led his colleagues in the wake of the
12 9/11 attacks to pass measures that provided funding
13 to recovery efforts and relief to families that were
14 impacted, such as the extension of unemployment
15 benefits and provided health benefits to 9/11 first re-
16 sponders and survivors.

17 (24) In 2007, Rangel became Chair of the pow-
18 erful Ways and Means Committee. In that role, he
19 was instrumental in the development and passage of
20 the Affordable Care Act, which has provided cov-
21 erage to an estimated 20 million uninsured or
22 underinsured Americans. He also ensured that U.S.
23 territories like Puerto Rico, were not left out of this
24 landmark law.

1 (25) Rangel’s exceptional life was heavily
2 marked by his extraordinary accomplishments in the
3 military, various government roles, and elected of-
4 fice, which led to economic and social advancements
5 for his fellow servicemembers, constituents of his
6 district, underserved communities across the coun-
7 try, and people around the globe.

8 (26) During his congressional career, Rangel
9 crafted and passed numerous measures of signifi-
10 cance, including several that remain foundational to
11 our military, diplomatic corps, healthcare system,
12 international trade relationships, and tax code.

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

14 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
15 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
16 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
17 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,
18 of a gold medal of appropriate design to Charles B. Ran-
19 gel, in recognition of his contribution to the United States
20 and his achievements of paving the way for equality and
21 for people of all backgrounds, regardless of demographic
22 or economic class.

23 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
24 presentation described in subsection (a), the Secretary of
25 the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”)

1 shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices,
2 and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary. The
3 design shall bear an image of, and inscription of the name
4 of, Charles B. Rangel.

5 (c) DISPOSITION OF MEDAL.—Following the presen-
6 tation described in subsection (a), the gold medal shall be
7 given to the children of Charles B. Rangel, Steven Rangel
8 and Alicia Rangel.

9 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

10 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
11 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 at
12 a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, includ-
13 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead
14 expenses.

15 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

16 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
17 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
18 31, United States Code.

19 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
20 5134 and section 5136 of title 31, United States Code,
21 all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to
22 be numismatic items.

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

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

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

