

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 485

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali,
in recognition of his contributions to the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. CARSON (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FROST, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the United States.

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 “Muhammad Ali Con-
3 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., on Janu-
7 ary 17, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, Muhammad
8 Ali was the first child of Cassius, Sr., and Odessa
9 Clay.

10 (2) Muhammad Ali was one of the most cele-
11 brated athletes of the 20th century. He produced
12 some of the greatest sports memories in the United
13 States, from winning a gold medal at the 1960 Sum-
14 mer Olympics to lighting the Olympic torch at the
15 1996 Summer Olympics.

16 (3) After an impressive amateur career, during
17 which he won 2 National AAU light heavyweight ti-
18 tles, Muhammad Ali became the first professional
19 boxer in history to capture the heavyweight title 3
20 separate times.

21 (4) On April 28, 1967, he was stripped of his
22 boxing title and barred from competing for being a
23 conscientious objector to the war in Vietnam on reli-
24 gious and moral grounds. However, following a
25 unanimous decision by the Supreme Court of the
26 United States in 1971, Muhammad Ali’s conscien-

1 tious objector status was confirmed, his boxing li-
2 cense was reinstated, and he was cleared of any
3 wrongdoing.

4 (5) As an African American and a Muslim who
5 lived in an era that continued to question his civil
6 rights, Muhammad Ali battled issues of race and re-
7 ligion, and received recognition as one of the cham-
8 pions of the Civil Rights Movement in the United
9 States.

10 (6) Muhammad Ali was the recipient of many
11 awards for his sporting prowess and his support of
12 racial harmony, including the Dr. Martin Luther
13 King Memorial Award, the Spirit of America Award,
14 the Amnesty International Lifetime Achievement
15 Award, the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, the Es-
16 sence Living Legend Award, the Rainbow Coalition
17 Lifetime Achievement Award, the XNBA Human
18 Spirit Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and
19 the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

20 (7) Muhammad Ali was acknowledged by many
21 organizations for his achievements both inside and
22 outside the boxing ring, including being crowned
23 “Sportsman of the Century” by Sports Illustrated,
24 being named “Athlete of the Century” by GQ maga-
25 zine, being named “Sports Personality of the Cen-

1 tury” by the British Broadcasting Corporation,
2 being named “Kentucky Athlete of the Century” by
3 the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, being named
4 “Kentuckian of the Century” by the State of Ken-
5 tucky, being named “Louisvillian of the Century” by
6 the Advertising Club of Louisville, being named
7 “Boxer of the Century” by the World Sports Awards
8 of the Century, being recognized by the Inter-
9 national Boxing Hall of Fame, and receiving hon-
10 orary doctorate degrees from Muhlenberg College
11 and Princeton University.

12 (8) Muhammad Ali received the prestigious
13 Otto Hahn Peace Medal in Gold from the United
14 Nations Association of Germany for his work with
15 the United Nations and the Civil Rights Movement
16 in the United States.

17 (9) Muhammad Ali was selected by the Cali-
18 fornia Bicentennial Foundation for the U.S. Con-
19 stitution for personifying the vitality of the Bill of
20 Rights in various high-profile activities.

21 (10) Despite having been diagnosed with Par-
22 kinson’s disease in the early 1980s, Muhammad Ali
23 dedicated his life to the cause of universal human
24 rights and freedom. His commitment to equal justice

1 and peace touched the lives of hundreds of thou-
2 sands of people worldwide.

3 (11) President Jimmy Carter asked Muhammad
4 Ali to meet with African leaders in Tanzania, Kenya,
5 Nigeria, Liberia, and Senegal as part of the diplo-
6 matic efforts of President Carter to promote human
7 rights in the 1980s.

8 (12) In 1990, Muhammad Ali traveled to the
9 Middle East to seek the release of United States and
10 British hostages that were being held as human
11 shields in the first Gulf War. As a result of his
12 intervention, 15 United States hostages were freed
13 on December 2nd of that year.

14 (13) In 1998, Muhammad Ali was chosen as
15 the “U.N. Messenger of Peace”.

16 (14) Several Presidents of the United States
17 recognized Muhammad Ali, including President
18 George W. Bush who, on November 17, 2002, called
19 him “a man of peace” and stated that “across the
20 world, billions of people know Muhammad Ali as a
21 brave, compassionate, and charming man, and the
22 American people are proud to call Muhammad Ali
23 one of our own”, President Bill Clinton who stated
24 that Muhammad Ali “captured the world’s imagina-
25 tion and its heart. Outside the ring, Muhammad Ali

1 has dedicated his life to working for children, feed-
2 ing the hungry, supporting his faith, and standing
3 up for racial equality. He always fought for a just
4 and more humane world, breaking down barriers
5 here in America and around the world. There is no
6 telling how many tens of millions of people had their
7 hearts swell with pride and their eyes swell with
8 tears in 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic
9 torch, because we know, now and forever, he is the
10 greatest”, President Jimmy Carter who cited Mu-
11 hammad Ali as “Mr. International Friendship”, and
12 President Barack Obama who, as a Senator, had a
13 framed picture of Muhammad Ali hanging in his of-
14 fice, and before announcing his intentions to run for
15 President, Obama visited with Muhammad Ali at the
16 Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

17 (15) Muhammad Ali encouraged humanity
18 through his perseverance and the support of thou-
19 sands of people. He helped such organizations as the
20 Chicago-based adoption agency, The Cradle, the
21 Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Special Olympics’ or-
22 ganization, Best Buddies; and Herbert E. Birch
23 Services, an organization that runs a school for
24 handicapped children and young adults, in addition
25 to a summer camp for children with AIDS.

1 (16) Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie were
2 the founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Par-
3 kinson Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and helped raise
4 over \$50,000,000 for Parkinson’s research. The
5 Center’s mission is to provide excellence in treat-
6 ment, research, and education for patients and fami-
7 lies affected by Parkinson’s disease and other move-
8 ment disorders, regardless of their ability to pay.

9 (17) Muhammad Ali was an inspiration to
10 countless individuals with Parkinson’s disease, in-
11 cluding members of the Rock Steady Boxing Foun-
12 dation in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was founded
13 to give people with Parkinson’s disease hope by im-
14 proving their quality of life using boxing for fitness.

15 (18) Muhammad Ali was one of the founding
16 members of Athletes for Hope, an organization cre-
17 ated by a few very successful athletes of exemplary
18 character who have a deep commitment to charitable
19 and community causes.

20 (19) Muhammad Ali also established the Mu-
21 hammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville,
22 Kentucky, which promotes respect, hope, and under-
23 standing, and inspires people everywhere to be as
24 great as they can be. A visitor of the Muhammad Ali
25 Center experiences the “hows” of Ali’s life: How he

1 found the courage, the dedication, and the discipline
2 to become a world champion, how he found the con-
3 viction to stand up for what he believed, and how he
4 turned his passion for excellence in the ring to a
5 passion for peace on the world stage.

6 (20) Like Muhammad Ali himself, the Muham-
7 mad Ali Center focuses on what brings individuals
8 together, not what sets them apart, and is a “global
9 gathering place” to which people can come, both on-
10 line and in person, to learn, share, and celebrate our
11 commonalities as human beings and to formulate
12 ways of advancing humanity.

13 (21) Muhammad Ali helped to provide more
14 than 22,000,000 aid packets to assist people in
15 need, and until the last years of his life, he traveled,
16 on average, more than 200 days per year for human-
17 itarian causes.

18 (22) Muhammad Ali, known simply as “the
19 greatest”, transcended the glamour and glory of
20 being a sports champion to become not only one of
21 the greatest sports figures, but one of the greatest
22 role models of our time.

23 (23) On June 3, 2016, Muhammad Ali died at
24 the age of 74.

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

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
3 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
4 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
5 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
6 medal of appropriate design to Muhammad Ali, in recogni-
7 tion of his contributions to the United States.

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

13 (c) TRANSFER OF MEDAL AFTER PRESENTATION.—
14 Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of
15 Muhammad Ali under subsection (a), the gold medal shall
16 be given to his wife, Lonnie Ali.

17 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

18 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
19 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 at
20 a price sufficient to cover the cost of the medals, including
21 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead ex-
22 penses.

23 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

24 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
25 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
26 31, United States Code.

1 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
2 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
3 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
4 items.

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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