

Miracle on Ice Congressional Gold Medal Act

[Public Law 119–53]

[This law has not been amended]

【Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 119–53. It was last amended by the public law listed in the As Amended Through note above and below at the bottom of each page of the pdf version and reflects current law through the date of the enactment of the public law listed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/comps/>】

【Note: While this publication does not represent an official version of any Federal statute, substantial efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents. The official version of Federal law is found in the United States Statutes at Large and in the United States Code. The legal effect to be given to the Statutes at Large and the United States Code is established by statute (1 U.S.C. 112, 204).】

AN ACT To award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic “Miracle on Ice”, revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. [31 U.S.C. 5111 note] SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Miracle on Ice Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team competed at the 1980 Winter Olympics, officially the XIII Olympic Winter Games and known as the 1980 Lake Placid games, from February 13 to 24, 1980, in Lake Placid, New York.

(2) Team USA, comprised of collegiate players, defeated the defending Olympic champion the Soviet Union 4-3 on February 22, 1980, in the final round of the 1980 Winter Olympics men’s ice hockey tournament.

(3) The 1980 United States Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team roster included—

- (A) Bill Baker (Grand Rapids, Minnesota);
- (B) Neal Broten (Roseau, Minnesota);
- (C) Dave Christian (Warroad, Minnesota);
- (D) Steve Christoff (Richfield, Minnesota);
- (E) Jim Craig (North Easton, Massachusetts);
- (F) Mike Eruzione (Winthrop, Massachusetts);
- (G) John Harrington (Virginia, Minnesota);
- (H) Steve Janaszak (Saint Paul, Minnesota);

- (I) Mark Johnson (Madison, Wisconsin);
- (J) Rob McClanahan (Saint Paul, Minnesota);
- (K) Ken Morrow (Flint, Michigan);
- (L) Jack O'Callahan (Charlestown, Massachusetts);
- (M) Mark Pavelich (Eveleth, Minnesota);
- (N) Mike Ramsey (Minneapolis, Minnesota);
- (O) Buzz Schneider (Grand Rapids, Minnesota);
- (P) Dave Silk (Scituate, Massachusetts);
- (Q) Eric Strobel (Rochester, Minnesota);
- (R) Bob Suter (Madison, Wisconsin);
- (S) Mark Wells (St. Clair Shores, Michigan); and
- (T) Phil Verchota (Duluth, Minnesota).

(4) The "Miracle on Ice" United States and Soviet Union final round game aired on tape delay on Feb 22, 1980, from Lake Placid and drew 34,200,000 average viewers. The match is remembered as a "miracle" as collegiate ice hockey players defied expectations in defeating a Soviet team that won 4 consecutive gold medals dating back to 1964.

(5) Team USA defeated Finland 4-2 in its final game to win the gold medal, its first gold medal since 1960 in men's ice hockey.

(6) Herb Brooks, the last player cut from the 1960 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team that won gold at Squaw Valley, guided the 1980 team to its historic gold medal. Known as a motivator, Brooks molded a team built around hard work, belief in oneself, and belief in teammates. He reminded his team when they played the Soviets, "you were born to be hockey players, everyone one of you. . . and you were meant to be here".

(7) The tournament occurred at a time when the United States was struggling with rampant stagflation, high gas prices, hostages held in Iran, and increased tensions with the Soviet Union whose invasion of Afghanistan led to the boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics.

(8) The Miracle on Ice was a turning point for ice hockey in the United States. The game was named the greatest sports moment of the 20th century by Sports Illustrated.

(9) The historic win brought ice hockey to the front-page of newspapers everywhere, and forever opened the door to the National Hockey League for players born in the United States. The impact of the event was far-reaching and is still being felt today.

(10) Since 1980, interest in the United States in the sport of ice hockey has increased exponentially. Registrations with USA Hockey have increased by nearly 400 percent since 1980 from 136,000 to over 564,000, and the number of National Hockey League players from the United States has increased from 72 in 1980 to 245 in 2024.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of 3 gold medals of appropriate design to the members of the

1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) DISPOSITION OF MEDALS.—Following the award of the gold medals under subsection (a)—

(1) one gold medal shall be given to the Lake Placid Olympic Center in Lake Placid, New York, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate;

(2) one gold medal shall be given to the United States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum in Eveleth, Minnesota, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate; and

(3) one gold medal shall be given to the United States Olympic & Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where it shall be displayed and made available for research, as appropriate.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

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

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

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

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

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