Public Law 98-278
98th Congress

An Act

To authorize the awarding of special congressional gold medals to the daughter of Harry S Truman, to Lady Bird Johnson, and to Elie Wiesel.

May 8, 1984
[S. 2597]

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

SECTION 1. (a) The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to Margaret Truman Daniel, a gold medal of appropriate design, in recognition of the lifetime of outstanding public service which her father, Harry S Truman, gave to the United States, and in commemoration of his one hundredth birthday which will be celebrated on May 8, 1984.

(b) For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause to be struck a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) There are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed $25,000 for fiscal year 1985 to carry out the provisions of this section.

Appropriation authorization.

(d)(1) The Secretary of the Treasury may cause duplicates in bronze of the medal provided for in this section to be coined and sold under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and the gold medal.

(2) The appropriation used to carry out the provisions of this section shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of such sales.

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) Lady Bird Johnson represents the finest qualities of American women, having demonstrated exceptional abilities in the fields of government, business, and social justice;

(2) Lady Bird Johnson's life of service to the Nation covers a generation of change in the status of women;

(3) the intelligence and devotion of Lady Bird Johnson to the concerns of the family, natural resources, and education have eased the transition of the roles of women and benefited the Nation;

(4) Lady Bird Johnson, in her roles as wife of a United States Representative and Senator, First Lady of the United States, skilled businesswoman, and regent for the University of Texas, has served as an example of the bridge between the traditional role and the contemporary roles of women in the United States; and

(5) Lady Bird Johnson has received national recognition with the presentation of many awards, including the George Foster Peabody Award, the Eleanor Roosevelt Golden Candlestick Award, the B'nai B'rith Humanitarian Award, the Business and Professional Women's Club Businesswomen's Award, the Ladies Home Journal Woman of the Year Award, the University of Texas Distinguished Alumni Award, the Department of the

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Interior Conservation Service Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

(b) The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to Lady Bird Johnson a gold medal of appropriate design, in recognition of her humanitarian efforts and outstanding contributions to the improvement and beautification of America.

(c) For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause to be struck a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Appropriation authorization.

(d) There are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed $25,000 for fiscal year 1985 to carry out the provisions of this section.

(e)(1) The Secretary of the Treasury may cause duplicates in bronze of the medal provided for in this section to be coined and sold under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and the gold medal.

(2) The appropriation used to carry out the provisions of this section may be reimbursed out of the proceeds of such sales.

SEC. 3. (a) The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) Elie Wiesel is internationally esteemed for his accomplishments as novelist, teacher, philosopher, critic, historian, humanitarian, and distinguished citizen of the United States and the world;

(2) the twenty-five published works of Elie Wiesel include novels, testimonies, short stories, and essays which fuse the richness of centuries-old religious traditions with the insights of modern philosophy;

(3) the life and writings of Elie Wiesel have been the subject of at least eleven books and his work is taught in high schools, colleges, and universities throughout the United States;

(4) Elie Wiesel in his role of "spiritual archivist of the Holocaust" encourages an understanding of the horrors of the past in order to offer humanity hope for a better and more secure future;

(5) Elie Wiesel served with distinction as Chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust and as Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council;

(6) Elie Wiesel has traveled, written, and worked for the cause of human rights in Biafra, Lebanon, Cambodia, the Soviet Union, and Central America; and

(7) Elie Wiesel has received the International Literary Prize for Peace and the Prix Medicis, two of the most prestigious literary awards of Europe, and honorary degrees from twenty-five universities of the United States and Israel.

(b) The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to Elie Wiesel a gold medal of appropriate design, in recognition of his humanitarian efforts and outstanding contributions to world literature and human rights.

(c) For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause to be struck a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Appropriation authorization.

(d) There are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed $25,000 for fiscal year 1985 to carry out the provisions of this section.

(e)(1) The Secretary of the Treasury may cause duplicates in bronze of the medal provided for in this section to be coined and sold

under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and the gold medal.

(2) The appropriation used to carry out the provisions of this section may be reimbursed out of the proceeds of such sales.

SEC. 4. The medals provided for in this Act are national medals for the purposes of section 5111 of title 31, United States Code.

Approved May 8, 1984.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2597 (H.J. Res. 394) (H.R. 3614):

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):
Mar. 13, H.J. Res. 394 and H.R. 3614 considered and passed House.
Apr. 26, S. 2597 considered and passed Senate and House.