

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1709

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 1999

Mr. RANGEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Banking and Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to the Nation.

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

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. was born on Octo-
6 ber 8, 1941, in Greenville, South Carolina.

7 (2) In 1965 Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. joined the
8 civil rights movement full-time, beginning his activ-

1 ism as a student leader in the sit-in movement and
2 continuing as a young organizer for the Southern
3 Christian Leadership Conference as an assistant to
4 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

5 (3) On June 30, 1968, Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
6 became an ordained minister, having attended the
7 Chicago Theological Seminary.

8 (4) Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. served as the national
9 director for Operation Breadbasket and, in 1971 in
10 Chicago, Illinois, founded People United to Save Hu-
11 manity, known as PUSH.

12 (5) In 1984 Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. founded the
13 National Rainbow Coalition, a national social justice
14 organization devoted to political empowerment and
15 to expanding educational and employment opportuni-
16 ties for disadvantaged people and for communities of
17 color.

18 (6) In 1996 Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. merged the
19 National Rainbow Coalition and PUSH to continue
20 the philosophies of both organizations and to maxi-
21 mize their resources.

22 (7) Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is, and has been for
23 more than 30 years, one of the foremost political fig-
24 ures in the United States, playing a pivotal role in
25 virtually every movement for human rights, civil

1 rights, peace, gender equality, empowerment, and
2 economic and social justice.

3 (8) Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. has been and con-
4 tinues to be counted on to serve as a champion and
5 spokesman for a segment of the population whose
6 voices all too often are not heard.

7 (9) Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. has been called the
8 “conscience of the Nation” and the “great unifier”,
9 challenging the United States to establish just and
10 humane priorities.

11 (10) Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. has led a myriad of
12 successful delegations, marches, and missions for
13 justice, peace, and reconciliation.

14 (11) Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is a highly respected
15 world leader who has acted on many occasions as an
16 international diplomat.

17 (12) In 1984 Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. secured the
18 release of a captured Navy pilot, Lieutenant Robert
19 Goodman, who was shot down over Lebanon. He
20 also negotiated the release of 22 Americans and 26
21 Cubans in Cuba during 1984.

22 (13) In 1990 Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. won the re-
23 lease of hundreds of foreign nationals, including 47
24 Americans, being held in Iraq and Kuwait by Sad-
25 dam Hussein.

1 (14) In October 1997 Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
2 was appointed by President William Jefferson Clin-
3 ton and by Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
4 as the Special Envoy of the President and the Sec-
5 retary of State for the Promotion of Democracy in
6 Africa.

7 (15) On May 2, 1999, Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
8 obtained the negotiated release of Army Specialist
9 Steven M. Gonzales and Staff Sergeants Christopher
10 J. Stone and Andrew Ramirez, 3 United States sol-
11 diers who had spent 32 days in captivity in Yugo-
12 slavia as prisoners of war and hostages.

13 (16) Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. has dedicated his
14 life to the principles of freedom, peace, justice, inter-
15 national good will, and the struggle for civil rights
16 and equality for Americans and for all peoples, at
17 home and abroad.

18 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

19 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
20 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold
21 medal of appropriate design to Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. in
22 recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions
23 to the Nation.

24 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
25 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary

1 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
2 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
3 Secretary.

4 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—Effective
5 February 1, 1999, there are authorized to be appropriated
6 \$30,000 to carry out this section.

7 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

8 (a) STRIKING AND SALE.—The Secretary of the
9 Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the
10 gold medal struck under section 2 under such regulations
11 as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to
12 cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use
13 of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the
14 gold medal.

15 (b) REIMBURSEMENT OF APPROPRIATION.—The ap-
16 propriation used to carry out section 2 shall be reimbursed
17 out of the proceeds of sales under subsection (a).

18 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

19 The medals struck under this Act are national medals
20 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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