

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5034

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress in honor of Rev. Joseph A. De Laine, in recognition of his contributions to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN (for himself, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SPRATT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress in honor of Rev. Joseph A. De Laine, in recognition of his 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 **SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rev. Joseph A. De
5 Laine Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Reverend Joseph Armstrong De Laine,
2 one of the true heroes of the civil rights struggle, led
3 a crusade to break down barriers in education in
4 South Carolina.

5 (2) The efforts of Rev. Joseph A. De Laine led
6 to the desegregation of public schools in the United
7 States, but forever scarred his own life.

8 (3) In 1949, Rev. Joseph A. De Laine, a min-
9 ister and principal, organized African-American par-
10 ents in Summerton, South Carolina, to petition the
11 school board for a bus for black students, who had
12 to walk up to 10 miles through corn and cotton
13 fields to attend a segregated school, while the white
14 children in the school district rode to and from
15 school in nice clean buses.

16 (4) In 1950, these same parents sued to end
17 public school segregation in *Briggs v. Elliott* (342
18 U.S. 350 (1952)), one of five cases that collectively
19 led to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in
20 *Brown v. Board of Education* (347 U.S. 483
21 (1954)).

22 (5) Because of his participation in the desegre-
23 gation movement, Rev. Joseph A. De Laine was sub-
24 jected to repeated acts of domestic terror, in
25 which—

1 (A) he, along with two sisters and a niece,
2 lost their jobs;

3 (B) he fought off an angry mob;

4 (C) he received frequent death threats; and

5 (D) his church and his home were burned
6 to the ground.

7 (6) In October 1955, after Rev. Joseph A. De
8 Laine relocated to Florence County in South Caro-
9 lina, shots were fired at the De Laine home, and be-
10 cause Reverend De Laine fired back, to mark the
11 car, he was charged with assault and battery with
12 intent to kill.

13 (7) The shooting incident drove Rev. Joseph A.
14 De Laine from South Carolina to Buffalo, New
15 York, where he organized an African Methodist
16 Episcopal Church.

17 (8) Believing that he would not be treated fairly
18 by the judicial system in South Carolina if he re-
19 turned there, Rev. Joseph A. De Laine told the Fed-
20 eral Bureau of Investigation, “I am not running
21 from justice but injustice”.

22 (9) Rev. Joseph A. De Laine died in Charlotte,
23 North Carolina in 1974.

24 (10) It was not until 2000—26 years after his
25 death and 45 years after the October 1955 inci-

1 dent—that Reverend De Laine was cleared of all
2 charges relating to the incident.

3 (11) Rev. Joseph A. De Laine was a humble
4 and fearless man who showed the Nation that all
5 people, regardless of the color of their skin, deserve
6 a first-rate education, a lesson from which the Na-
7 tion has benefited immeasurably.

8 (12) Rev. Joseph A. De Laine deserves rightful
9 recognition for the suffering that he and his family
10 endured to teach the Nation one of the great civil
11 rights lessons of the last century.

12 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

13 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
14 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold
15 medal of appropriate design to Joseph De Laine Jr. to
16 posthumously honor his father, Rev. Joseph Anthony De
17 Laine, in recognition of Reverend De Laine’s contributions
18 to the Nation.

19 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
20 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
21 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
22 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
23 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
24 Secretary.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
3 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
4 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price
5 sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals (includ-
6 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead
7 expenses) and the costs of the gold medal.

8 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

11 **SEC. 6. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

12 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be
13 charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise
14 Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the
15 cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

16 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
17 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be
18 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
19 Fund.

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