

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1854

To authorize the President to present congressional gold medals to the Native American Code Talkers in recognition of their contributions to the Nation during World War I and World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19 (legislative day, DECEMBER 18), 2001

Mr. JOHNSON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President to present congressional gold medals to the Native American Code Talkers in recognition of their contributions to the Nation during World War I and World War II.

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. CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) not fewer than 17 Indian tribes have been
6 identified as having served as code talkers during
7 World War I and World War II;

1 (2) during World War I, 15 members of the
2 Oklahoma Choctaw served as code talkers in the
3 36th Infantry Division;

4 (3) during World War II, many Native Ameri-
5 cans served as code talkers, including—

6 (A) members of the Lakota-Dakota and
7 Sioux Tribes, many of whom served in the 3d
8 Battalion and the 302d Reconnaissance Team,
9 First Cavalry Division;

10 (B) 17 members of the Commanche Tribe;

11 (C) members of the Hopi Tribe, many of
12 whom served in the 223d Battalion;

13 (D) 27 members of the Sac and Fox Tribe
14 of Iowa, 19 of whom served in the 18th Iowa
15 Infantry;

16 (E) members of the Choctaw Tribe, many
17 of whom served in Company K, 180th Infantry
18 Regiment, 45th Division;

19 (F) 5 members of the Assiniboiné Tribe;

20 (G) members of the Seminole Tribe of
21 Florida, most of whom served in the 195th
22 Field Artillery Battalion; and

23 (H) members of the Muscogee Creek
24 Tribe, most of whom served in the Aleutian Is-
25 lands campaign;

1 (4) in December 2000, Congress recognized the
2 Navajo Code Talkers by authorizing the presentation
3 of gold and silver medals to the Navajo Code Talk-
4 ers and posthumously to their surviving family mem-
5 bers;

6 (5) all Native American Code Talkers have per-
7 formed an important service to the preservation of
8 democracy, and deserve proper recognition, which is
9 long overdue;

10 (6) because the code was so successful, the Na-
11 tive American Code Talkers are credited with saving
12 the lives of countless American and Allied Forces
13 during World War II; and

14 (7) Native Americans continue to be one of the
15 most represented and decorated ethnic groups in the
16 United States Armed Forces.

17 (b) CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS AUTHORIZED.—

18 (1) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—To express
19 recognition by the United States and its citizens of
20 the achievements of the Native American Code Talk-
21 ers, the President is authorized to award to each of
22 the Native American Code Talkers, or a surviving
23 family member, on behalf of Congress, a gold medal
24 of appropriate design.

1 (2) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of
2 the awards authorized by paragraph (1), the Sec-
3 retary of the Treasury (in this section referred to as
4 the “Secretary”) shall strike gold medals with suit-
5 able emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be deter-
6 mined by the Secretary.

7 (c) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—The Secretary may strike
8 and sell duplicates in bronze of the medals struck pursu-
9 ant to this section, under such regulations as the Sec-
10 retary may prescribe, and at a price sufficient to cover
11 the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of
12 machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the
13 medals.

14 (d) STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals
15 struck pursuant to this section are national medals for
16 purposes of chapter 51, of title 31, United States Code.

17 (e) FUNDING.—

18 (1) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—
19 There is authorized to be charged against the
20 United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such
21 sums as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the
22 medals authorized by this section.

23 (2) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received
24 from the sale of duplicate medals under this section

- 1 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public
- 2 Enterprise Fund.

