

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2818

To award a congressional gold medal to the family of the late Raúl Juliá.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. REYES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, Mr. FROST, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. LEE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BACA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to the family of the late Raúl Juliá.

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 finds as follows:

5 (1) Raúl Juliá made his Broadway debut just
6 a few weeks after arriving in New York City in 1964
7 in Calderon's "Life is a Dream".

1 (2) Raúl Juliá, after only 3 years of living in
2 New York City, was instrumental in opening doors
3 for nontraditional parts for Hispanic actors by tak-
4 ing the role of Demetrius in Shakespeare’s “Titus
5 Andronicus” at the New York Shakespeare Festival
6 and Cradeau in Sartre’s “No Exit”.

7 (3) Raúl Juliá was the busiest Hispanic Shake-
8 spearean actor in New York and the first to estab-
9 lish a decades-long association with Joseph Papp
10 and the New York Shakespeare Festival.

11 (4) Raúl Juliá began an impressive and produc-
12 tive 28-year association with Joseph Papp and the
13 New York Shakespeare Festival as Macduff in the
14 Festival’s Mobile Unit, Spanish language production
15 of MacBeth.

16 (5) Raúl Juliá became the first Puerto Rican
17 actor to conquer Broadway stages by having his
18 work be nominated for 4 different Tony Awards in
19 10 years: “Two Gentlemen of Verona”, “Where’s
20 Charley?”, “Threepenny Opera”, and “Nine”.

21 (6) Raúl Juliá provided a role model for mil-
22 lions of children in his role as “Rafael, the Fix-It
23 Man” in Sesame Street.

24 (7) Raúl Juliá was a dedicated leader in the
25 fight against the rising rates of teen violence and co-

1 sponsored scriptwriting competitions for high school
2 students as a way to encourage teenagers to express
3 their emotions through art rather than through vio-
4 lence.

5 (8) Raúl Juliá's dedication to help Hispanic-
6 American film and television writers develop their
7 work led him to co-found the Latino Playwrights
8 Reading Workshops.

9 (9) Raúl Juliá was instrumental in the forma-
10 tion of the now legendary Puerto Rico Traveling
11 Theater, an off-Broadway nonprofit Puerto Rican
12 theater that to this day continues to promote and
13 showcase bilingual plays, new Hispanic playwrights
14 and Spanish-speaking actors while bringing theater
15 to those who cannot ordinarily afford it.

16 (10) Raúl Juliá was a leader in the entertain-
17 ment industry, particularly as a tireless mentor and
18 role model to emerging Latino actors.

19 (11) Raúl Juliá was a dedicated activist and
20 humanitarian who in his lifetime became a major
21 supporter and spokesperson for the Hunger Project,
22 a nonprofit organization committed to the eradi-
23 cation of world hunger.

24 (12) Raúl Juliá was tireless in his commitment
25 to the Puerto Rican film industry and to the making

1 of Spanish language films and continued to partici-
2 pate in small, independent, Spanish-language films
3 even after having become a Hollywood star.

4 (13) Raúl Juliá was an extremely successful
5 stage, film and television actor who never abandoned
6 his Puerto Rican heritage, never changed his name
7 and never gave up his accent, thereby becoming an
8 enduring role model for hundreds of Latino actors.

9 (14) Raúl Juliá received the Hispanic Heritage
10 Award recognizing his many career achievements for
11 the Latino community, including his involvement in
12 “La Familia”, a New York City outreach program
13 for Latino families in need, the Puerto Rican trav-
14 eling theater, the Museo del Barrio, and the New
15 York Shakespeare Festival.

16 (15) Raúl Juliá received the National Board of
17 Review Best Actor prize for his interpretation of the
18 political prisoner Valentin in the award-winning
19 landmark film “The Kiss of the Spider Woman”, an
20 award he shared with his co-star William Hurt.

21 (16) Raúl Juliá posthumously received the pres-
22 tigious Emmy Award, Cable Ace Award, Golden
23 Globe Award, and the SAG Award, given by his fel-
24 low actors for his most famous roles including Chico
25 Mendes in “The Burning Season”.

1 (17) Raúl Juliá was proud of his Puerto Rican
2 heritage and his life and work reflected his strong
3 commitment to his culture and the people of Puerto
4 Rico.

5 (18) Raúl Juliá was given a state funeral in
6 Puerto Rico and since that time there have been
7 many awards and honors created in his name: a
8 scholarship at Julliard, a scholarship given to a
9 promising young actor for the purpose of studying
10 and performing Shakespeare at the Joseph Papp
11 Public Theater, the Raúl Juliá Award for Excellence
12 given annually by the National Endowment for the
13 Hispanic Arts in Washington, DC, El Teatro Raúl
14 Juliá in San Juan Puerto Rico, and the Raúl Juliá
15 Global Citizen Award, an annual award being given
16 this year for the first time by the Puerto Rican
17 Family Institute based in New York City.

18 (19) Raúl Juliá was recognized by the office of
19 the Mayor of the city of New York with the creation
20 of Raúl Juliá Day which was celebrated and com-
21 memorated in conjunction with Puerto Rican Herit-
22 age and Culture Month on November 21, 1994.

23 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
25 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-

1 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
2 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
3 medal of appropriate design, to the family of the late Raúl
4 Juliá, in recognition of his dedication to ending world hun-
5 ger and his great contributions to the Latino community
6 and to the performing arts.

7 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
8 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
9 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
10 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
11 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
12 retary.

13 (c) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—The Secretary may ac-
14 cept, use, and disburse gifts or donations of property or
15 money to carry out this section.

16 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

17 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
18 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
19 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
20 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
21 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
22 and the cost of the gold medal.

1 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
3 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
4 51 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
9 **SALE.**

10 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
11 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
12 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
13 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
14 to this Act.

15 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
16 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
17 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
18 Enterprise Fund.

19 **SEC. 6. TRANSFER OF ANY NET INCOME TO THE NEW YORK**
20 **PUBLIC THEATER AND THE NEW YORK**
21 **SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL.**

22 If the sum of any gifts and donations received by the
23 Secretary under section 2(c) and any proceeds from the
24 sale of duplicate medals pursuant to section 3 exceeds the
25 total amount of the costs incurred by the Secretary in car-
26 rying out this Act, the Secretary shall transfer, from the

1 United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, an amount
2 equal to—

3 (1) 1/2 of such excess amount to the New York
4 Public Theater; and

5 (2) 1/2 of such excess amount to the New York
6 Shakespeare Festival.

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