

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4254

To authorize the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of gold medals to the Meskwaki Code Talkers in recognition of their contributions to the Nation during World War II, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2004

Mr. BOSWELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To authorize the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of gold medals to the Meskwaki Code Talkers in recognition of their contributions to the Nation during World War II, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Meskwaki Code Talk-  
5       ers Recognition Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) During World War II, 8 members of the  
4 Meskwaki tribe of Tama County, Iowa, used their  
5 native language as code to transmit vital information  
6 to the United States Armed Forces regarding enemy  
7 actions, locations, troops, and ammunition.

8 (2) These Meskwaki tribe members, known as  
9 the Meskwaki Code Talkers, worked under chal-  
10 lenging conditions in North Africa, taking extreme  
11 risks to provide critical information to the United  
12 States Armed Forces.

13 (3) Frank Sanache, the only surviving  
14 Meskwaki Code Talker, endured severe hardships  
15 both while he was stationed in North Africa and  
16 while he was held prisoner in a Polish internment  
17 camp after being captured by the Germans.

18 (4) The enemy was never able to translate the  
19 native Meskwaki language, and the Meskwaki Code  
20 Talkers, among other Code Talkers, are credited  
21 with saving the lives of countless members of the  
22 United States Armed Forces and contributing sig-  
23 nificantly to the victory of the United States and its  
24 allies.

1 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
3 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-  
4 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
5 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of gold medals  
6 of appropriate design to each of the 8 Meskwaki Code  
7 Talkers, including—

- 8 (1) Edward Benson;
- 9 (2) Dewey Roberts;
- 10 (3) Frank Sanache;
- 11 (4) Willard Sanache;
- 12 (5) Melvin Twin;
- 13 (6) Judy Wayne Wabaunasee;
- 14 (7) Mike Wayne Wabaunasee; and
- 15 (8) Dewey Youngbear.

16 (b) ADDITIONAL MEDALS.—The Speaker of the  
17 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore  
18 of the Senate may make appropriate arrangements for the  
19 presentation of additional medals to other individuals not  
20 designated in subsection (a) who also served as Meskwaki  
21 Code Talkers during World War II.

22 (c) MEDALS AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY.—The med-  
23 als authorized by this Act may be awarded posthumously  
24 to a surviving family member of the individuals designated  
25 in subsection (a) and referred to in subsection (b).

1 (d) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
2 presentation referred to in this section, the Secretary of  
3 the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
4 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
5 Secretary.

6 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

7 The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell  
8 duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant  
9 to section 3 under such regulations as the Secretary may  
10 prescribe, and at a price sufficient to cover the costs of  
11 the duplicate medals and the gold medal (including labor,  
12 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses).

13 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

16 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

17 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is  
18 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
19 Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000  
20 to pay for the costs of the medals authorized by this Act.

21 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
22 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be  
23 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
24 Fund.

