

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5115

To award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

Mr. MICA (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to
Constantino Brumidi.

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 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) On July 26, 1805, Constantino Brumidi
6 was born in Rome, Italy of an Italian mother and
7 a Greek father who inspired him with a love of lib-
8 erty.

9 (2) While Constantino Brumidi's Greek ances-
10 try stirred his passion for liberty and citizenship, his
11 Italian heritage provided the art styles of the Ren-

1 aissance and the Baroque which influenced the art-
2 work of the United States Capitol.

3 (3) Constantino Brumidi became a citizen of
4 the United States as soon as he was able, embracing
5 its history, values, and ideals.

6 (4) Beginning in 1855, Constantino Brumidi
7 designed and decorated one House and five Senate
8 committee rooms in the Capitol, as well as the Sen-
9 ate Reception Room, the Office of the Vice Presi-
10 dent, and, most notably, the President's Room,
11 which represents Brumidi's supreme effort "to make
12 beautiful the Capitol" of the United States.

13 (5) In 1865 Constantino Brumidi completed in
14 just 11 months his masterpiece, "The Apotheosis of
15 Washington," in the eye of the Capitol dome.

16 (6) In 1871 Constantino Brumidi created the
17 first tribute to an African American in the Capitol
18 when he placed the figure of Crispus Attucks at the
19 center of his fresco of the Boston Massacre.

20 (7) In 1878 Constantino Brumidi at the age of
21 72 and in poor health, began work on the Rotunda
22 frieze, which chronicles the history of America.

23 (8) On February 19, 1880, Constantino
24 Brumidi died at the age of 74, four and a half

1 months after slipping and nearly falling from a scaf-
2 fold while working on the Rotunda frieze.

3 (9) Constantino Brumidi, proud of his artistic
4 accomplishments and devoted to his adopted coun-
5 try, said, “My one ambition and my daily prayer is
6 that I may live long enough to make beautiful the
7 Capitol of the one country on earth in which there
8 is liberty.”.

9 (10) Constantino Brumidi’s life and work exem-
10 plify the lives of millions of immigrants who came to
11 pursue the American dream.

12 (11) 2005 marks the bicentennial of
13 Constantino Brumidi’s birth.

14 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
16 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
17 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
18 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
19 medal of appropriate design, to the family of Constantino
20 Brumidi, in recognition of the contributions of
21 Constantino Brumidi to the Nation.

22 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
23 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
24 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
25 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,

1 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
2 retary.

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

4 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
5 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
6 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
7 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
8 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
9 and the cost of the gold medal.

10 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

11 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
12 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
13 of title 31, United States Code.

14 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
15 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
16 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

17 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
18 **SALE.**

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

24 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
25 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section

- 1 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
- 2 Enterprise Fund.

