

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4779

To award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions, to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions, to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

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 “Byron Nelson Congres-  
5       sional Gold Medal Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds as follows:

8               (1) Byron Nelson was a top player in the sport  
9       of golf during the World War II era and his accom-

1        plishments as a player, a teacher, and commentator  
2        are renowned.

3            (2) Byron Nelson won 54 career victories, in-  
4        cluding a record 11 in a row in 1945, during his  
5        short 13-year career.

6            (3) Byron Nelson won 5 majors, including 2  
7        Masters (1937 and 1942), two Professional Golf As-  
8        sociation (PGA) Championships (1940 and 1945)  
9        and the U.S. Open (1939).

10           (4) Professional Golfer Bill Nichols recently  
11        ranked the greatest seasons on the PGA tour for  
12        The Dallas Morning News and picked Roanoke,  
13        Texas-resident Byron Nelson's 1945 tour as the  
14        greatest round of golf in American history.

15           (5) In 1945, Byron Nelson accumulated 18  
16        total victories, 11 of which were consecutive, while  
17        averaging 68.33 strokes per round for 31 tour-  
18        naments.

19           (6) At the Seattle Open in 1945, Nelson shot  
20        a record 62 for 18 holes and 259, 29 shots under  
21        par for 72 holes.

22           (7) Byron Nelson is one of only two golfers to  
23        be named "Male Athlete of the Year" twice by the  
24        Associated Press: in 1944, when he won 7 tour-

1 naments and averaged 69.67 strokes for 85 rounds,  
2 and again after his 1945 season.

3 (8) The World Golf Hall of Fame honored  
4 Byron Nelson in 2004 by featuring an exhibit enti-  
5 tled “Byron Nelson: A Champion . . . A Gen-  
6 tleman”.

7 (9) Nelson was selected for the Ryder Cup 4  
8 times—in 1937, 1939, 1947 and 1965, and on that  
9 last occasion he led the United States Ryder Cup  
10 team to victory over Great Britain.

11 (10) Byron Nelson was also a pioneer in the  
12 golf business, helping to develop the golf shoes and  
13 umbrellas used today.

14 (11) In 1966, True Temper created the “Iron  
15 Byron” robot to replicate Byron Nelson’s swing in  
16 order to test the company’s equipment, but the robot  
17 was eventually used for club and ball testing by the  
18 United States Golf Association (USGA) and many  
19 other manufacturing companies.

20 (12) Byron Nelson mentored many golf hope-  
21 fuls, including 1964 Player of the Year Ken Venturi  
22 and 6-time PGA Player of the Year Tom Watson.

23 (13) Byron Nelson was one of the first golf an-  
24 alysts on network television where his understanding

1 of the game in general, and the golf swing in par-  
2 ticular, was demonstrably profound.

3 (14) Byron Nelson helped to develop the Tour-  
4 nament Players Course (TPC) Four Seasons at Los  
5 Colinas, Texas, site of the Verizon Byron Nelson  
6 Classic and the Byron Nelson Golf School, into a  
7 world-class facility.

8 (15) The Byron Nelson Classic is the only PGA  
9 tour event named in honor of a professional golfer  
10 and traditionally attracts the strongest players in  
11 the sport.

12 (16) Since its inception, the Byron Nelson Clas-  
13 sic has raised \$82,000,000 for Salesmanship Club  
14 Youth and Family Centers, a nonprofit agency that  
15 provides education and mental health services for  
16 more than 2,700 children and their families in the  
17 greater Dallas area.

18 (17) In 2002, Byron Nelson received the pres-  
19 tigious Donald Ross Award from the American Soci-  
20 ety of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) for his sig-  
21 nificant contribution to the game of golf and the  
22 profession of golf course architecture.

23 **SEC. 3. 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 Byron Nelson in recogni-  
4 tion of his significant contributions, to the game of golf  
5 as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

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

12 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

13 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
14 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
15 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
16 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
17 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
18 and the cost of the gold medal.

19 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

20 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
21 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
22 51 of title 31, United States Code.

23 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
24 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
25 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
2 **SALE.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is  
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
5 Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be nec-  
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant  
7 to this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
10 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
11 Enterprise Fund.

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