

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2491

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## AN ACT

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) Byron Nelson was a top player in the sport  
4 of golf during the World War II era and his accom-  
5 plishments as a player, a teacher, and commentator  
6 are renowned.

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

10 (3) Byron Nelson won 5 majors, including 2  
11 Masters (1937 and 1942), 2 Professional Golf Asso-  
12 ciation (PGA) Championships (1940 and 1945) and  
13 the U.S. Open (1939).

14 (4) Sports journalist Bill Nichols recently  
15 ranked the greatest seasons on the PGA tour for  
16 The Dallas Morning News and picked Roanoke,  
17 Texas-resident Byron Nelson's 1945 tour as the  
18 greatest season of golf in American history.

19 (5) In 1945, Byron Nelson accumulated 18  
20 total victories, 11 of which were consecutive, while  
21 averaging 68.33 strokes per round for 30 tour-  
22 naments.

23 (6) At the Seattle Open in 1945, Byron Nelson  
24 shot a record 62 for 18 holes and the world record  
25 259, 29 shots under par for 72 holes.

1           (7) Byron Nelson is one of only 2 golfers to be  
 2       named “Male Athlete of the Year” twice by the As-  
 3       sociated Press: in 1944, when he won 7 tournaments  
 4       and averaged 69.67 strokes for 85 rounds, and  
 5       again after his 1945 season.

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

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

14          (10) Byron Nelson was also a pioneer in the  
 15      golf business, helping to develop the golf shoes and  
 16      umbrellas used today.

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

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

1           (13) Byron Nelson was one of the first golf an-  
2           alysts on network television where his understanding  
3           of the game in general, and the golf swing in par-  
4           ticular, was demonstrably profound.

5           (14) Byron Nelson received the United States  
6           Golf Association's Bob Jones Award for distin-  
7           guished sportsmanship in golf in 1974.

8           (15) In 1974, the Golf Writers Association of  
9           America presented Byron Nelson with the Richard-  
10          son Award for consistently outstanding contributions  
11          to golf.

12          (16) Since 1983, the Byron and Louise Nelson  
13          Golf Endowment Fund has provided over  
14          \$1,500,000 in endowment funds to Abilene Christian  
15          University in Abilene, Texas.

16          (17) Byron Nelson received the PGA Distin-  
17          guished Service Award in 1993. This award is pre-  
18          sented to an individual who has helped perpetuate  
19          the ideals and values of the PGA.

20          (18) Byron Nelson has served as an honorary  
21          chairperson for the Metroport Meals on Wheels since  
22          1992.

23          (19) In 1994, the Golf Course Superintendents  
24          Association of America presented Byron Nelson with

1 the Old Tom Morris Award for outstanding con-  
 2 tributions to the game.

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

8 (21) The EDS Byron Nelson Championship is  
 9 the only PGA tour event named in honor of a pro-  
 10 fessional golfer and traditionally attracts the strong-  
 11 est players in the sport.

12 (22) Since its inception, the EDS Byron Nelson  
 13 Championship has raised \$88,000,000 for Salesman-  
 14 ship Club Youth and Family Centers, a nonprofit  
 15 agency that provides education and mental health  
 16 services for more than 2,700 children and their fam-  
 17 ilies in the greater Dallas area.

18 (23) 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 (24) The United States Golf Association pre-  
 24 sented Byron Nelson the Ike Grainger Award for  
 25 volunteer service to the game of golf in 2002.

1           (25) In 2002, the National Golf Foundation  
2       presented Byron Nelson with the Graffis Award for  
3       outstanding lifelong contributions to the game of  
4       golf.

5   **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

6       (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President  
7   pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House  
8   of Representatives shall make appropriate arrangements  
9   for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
10  medal of appropriate design to Byron Nelson in recogni-  
11  tion of his significant contributions to the game of golf  
12  as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

13      (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
14  presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
15  of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
16  “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
17  blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
18  Secretary.

19   **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

20      The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
21  bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
22  under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
23  a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
24  materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
25  and the cost of the gold medal.

1 **SEC. 5. 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. 6. 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 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
18 Enterprise Fund.

Passed the Senate September 27, 2006.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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