

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 448

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich and Roy Peratrovich in recognition of their outstanding and enduring contributions to the civil rights and dignity of the Native peoples of Alaska and the Nation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich and Roy Peratrovich in recognition of their outstanding and enduring contributions to the civil rights and dignity of the Native peoples of Alaska and the Nation.

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 makes the following findings:

5 (1) Elizabeth Wanamaker, a Tlingit Indian,
6 was born on July 4, 1911, in Petersburg, Alaska.

1 (2) Elizabeth married Roy Peratrovich, a
2 Tlingit Indian from Klawock, Alaska, on December
3 15, 1931.

4 (3) In 1941, the couple moved to Juneau, Alas-
5 ka.

6 (4) Roy and Elizabeth Peratrovich discovered
7 that they could not purchase a home in the section
8 of Juneau in which they desired to live due to dis-
9 crimination against Alaska Natives.

10 (5) In the early 1940s, there were reports that
11 some businesses in Southeast Alaska posted signs
12 reading “No Natives Allowed”.

13 (6) Roy, as Grand President of the Alaska Na-
14 tive Brotherhood, and Elizabeth, as Grand President
15 of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, petitioned the Ter-
16 ritorial Governor and the Territorial Legislature to
17 enact a law prohibiting discrimination against Alas-
18 ka Natives in public accommodations.

19 (7) Rebuffed by the Territorial Legislature in
20 1943, they again sought passage of an anti-discrimi-
21 nation law in 1945.

22 (8) On February 8, 1945, as the Alaska Terri-
23 torial Senate debated the anti-discrimination law,
24 Elizabeth, who was sitting in the visitor’s gallery of

1 the Senate, was recognized to present her views on
2 the measure.

3 (9) The eloquent and dignified testimony given
4 by Elizabeth that day is widely credited for passage
5 of the anti-discrimination law.

6 (10) On February 16, 1945, Territorial Gov-
7 ernor Ernest Gruening signed into law an act pro-
8 hibiting discrimination against all citizens within the
9 jurisdiction of the Territory of Alaska in access to
10 public accommodations and imposing a penalty on
11 any person who shall display any printed or written
12 sign indicating discrimination on racial grounds of
13 such full and equal enjoyment.

14 (11) 19 years before Congress enacted the Civil
15 Rights Act of 1964, and 18 years before the Rev-
16 erend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his “I
17 Have a Dream” speech, one of America’s first anti-
18 discrimination laws was enacted in the Territory of
19 Alaska, thanks to the efforts of Elizabeth and Roy
20 Peratrovich.

21 (12) Since 1989, the State of Alaska has ob-
22 served Elizabeth Peratrovich Day on February 16 of
23 each year, and a visitor’s gallery of the Alaska
24 House of Representatives in the Alaska State Cap-
25 itol has been named for Elizabeth Peratrovich.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED. —The President is
3 authorized, on behalf of the Congress, to posthumously
4 award a gold medal of appropriate design to Elizabeth
5 Wanamaker Peratrovich and Roy Peratrovich, in recognition
6 of their outstanding and enduring contributions to the
7 civil rights and dignity of the Native peoples of Alaska
8 and the Nation.

9 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
10 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
11 of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)
12 shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
13 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.
14

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

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

22 **SEC. 4. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
3 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
4 Public Enterprise Fund such sum as may be appropriate
5 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized under section
6 2.

7 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
8 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
9 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
10 Fund.

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