

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1609

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Constantino Brumidi.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. RENZI, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SPACE, and Mr. MICA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## 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

1       Italian heritage provided the art styles of the Renaissance  
2       and the Baroque which influenced the artwork of the United States Capitol.  
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4                   (3) Constantino Brumidi became a citizen of  
5       the United States as soon as he was able, embracing  
6       its history, values, and ideals.

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

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

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

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

24                  (8) On February 19, 1880, Constantino  
25       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 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

13       (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—

14               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Speaker of the House of  
15       Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of  
16       the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for  
17       the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold  
18       medal of appropriate design in recognition of the  
19       contributions of Constantino Brumidi to the Nation.

20               (2) DISPLAY OF MEDAL IN CAPITOL VISITOR  
21       CENTER.—The Architect of the Capitol shall arrange  
22       for the gold medal presented under this subsection  
23       to be displayed in the Capitol Visitor Center as part  
24       of an exhibit honoring Constantino Brumidi.

1       (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
2 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
3 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-  
4 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,  
5 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-  
6 retary.

## 7 SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

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

#### 14 SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.

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

18 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
19 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals  
20 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
21 items.

22 SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF  
23 SALE.

24 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is  
25 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint

1 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-  
2 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant  
3 to this Act.

4 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
5 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
6 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
7 Enterprise Fund.

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