

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5315

To grant the Congressional Gold Medal to a group of soldiers from World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To grant the Congressional Gold Medal to a group of soldiers from World War II.

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) In April 1942, nearly 12,000 American sol-
6 diers and 67,000 Filipino soldiers based at Bataan,
7 Philippines, bravely and staunchly fought off enemy
8 attacks for more than 4 months while under stren-

1 uous conditions that resulted in starvation and dis-
2 ease.

3 (2) By maintaining their position and engaging
4 the enemy for as long as they did, the soldiers at
5 Bataan were able to redefine the momentum of the
6 war and provide other United States and Allied
7 forces throughout the Pacific with time to plan and
8 prepare for subsequent, crucial battles.

9 (3) On April 9, 1942, Maj. General Edward
10 King surrendered these troops into enemy hands.

11 (4) Over the next week, these prisoners were
12 forced to march 65 miles without any food, water or
13 medical care in what came to be know as the Bataan
14 Death March.

15 (5) During this forced march, thousands of sol-
16 diers died, either from starvation, lack of medical
17 care, sheer exhaustion, or from abuse by their cap-
18 tors.

19 (6) Within the first 40 days at Camp
20 O'Donnell, 1,600 more American prisoners died.

21 (7) The conditions at the camp were sub-
22 standard, leading to increased disease and malnutri-
23 tion among the prisoners.

24 (8) On June 6, 1942, the American prisoners
25 were transferred to Cabanatuan, north of Camp

1 O'Donnell. In July, all Filipino prisoners were pa-
2 roled.

3 (9) These prisoners suffered from continued
4 mistreatment, malnutrition, lack of medical care,
5 and horrific conditions.

6 (10) The prisoners who remained in these
7 camps were liberated in 1945 and returned home.

8 (11) Over the subsequent decades, these pris-
9 oners formed support groups, were honored in local
10 and State memorials, and told their story to all
11 Americans.

12 (12) Many of these soldiers have now passed
13 away, and those who remain continue to tell their
14 story.

15 (13) The United States is forever indebted to
16 these men for the courage they demonstrated during
17 the first 4 months of World War II in fighting
18 against enemy soldiers, and for the perseverance
19 they sustained during 3 years of capture, imprison-
20 ment, and atrocious conditions while maintaining
21 dignity, honor, patriotism, and loyalty.

22 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

23 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
24 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
25 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the

1 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal
2 of appropriate design in honor of American soldiers who
3 were prisoners of war at Bataan, collectively, in recogni-
4 tion of their personal sacrifice and service to their country.

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

11 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
13 gold medal in honor of the prisoners of war at Ba-
14 taan under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be
15 given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be
16 displayed as appropriate and made available for re-
17 search.

18 (2) SENSE.—It is the sense of the Congress
19 that the Smithsonian Institution should make the
20 gold medal received under paragraph (1) available
21 for display elsewhere, particularly at other appro-
22 priate locations associated with the prisoners of war
23 at Bataan.

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

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
3 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
4 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price
5 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
6 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

7 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

8 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are National med-
9 als for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States
10 Code.

11 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**
12 **OF SALE.**

13 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
15 Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed \$30,000
16 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized under section
17 2.

18 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
19 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
20 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
21 Fund.

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