

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2648

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to the Nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 2, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WATSON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BACA, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to 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 finds the following:

5               (1) Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., on Janu-  
6       ary 17, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, Muhammad

1 Ali was the first child of Cassius, Sr. and Odessa  
2 Clay.

3 (2) Muhammad Ali is one of the most cele-  
4 brated athletes of the 20th century. He has pro-  
5 duced some of America's greatest sports memories,  
6 from winning a gold medal at the 1960 Summer  
7 Olympics to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996  
8 Summer Olympics.

9 (3) After an impressive amateur career, during  
10 which he recorded 131 wins and only 7 losses and  
11 won 2 National AAU light heavyweight titles, Mu-  
12 hammad Ali became the first professional boxer in  
13 history to capture the heavyweight title 3 separate  
14 times.

15 (4) Muhammad Ali defeated every challenger he  
16 faced in the ring. But on April 28, 1967, he was  
17 stripped of his boxing title and barred from com-  
18 peting for being a conscientious objector to the war  
19 in Vietnam on religious and moral grounds. How-  
20 ever, following a unanimous United States Supreme  
21 Court decision in 1971, Muhammad Ali's conscien-  
22 tious objector status was confirmed, his boxing li-  
23 cense was reinstated, and he was cleared of any  
24 wrong doing.

1           (5) As an African-American and a Muslim liv-  
2           ing in an era that continued to question his civil  
3           rights, Muhammad Ali battled issues of race and re-  
4           ligion, and has received recognition as one of the  
5           champions of the Civil Rights Movement in the  
6           United States.

7           (6) Muhammad Ali is the recipient of many  
8           awards for his sporting prowess and his support of  
9           racial harmony, including the Dr. Martin Luther  
10          King Memorial Award, the Spirit of America Award,  
11          the Amnesty International Lifetime Achievement  
12          Award, the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, the Es-  
13          sence Living Legend Award, the Rainbow Coalition  
14          Lifetime Achievement Award, the XNBA Human  
15          Spirit Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and  
16          the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

17          (7) Muhammad Ali has been acknowledged by  
18          many organizations for his achievements both inside  
19          and outside the boxing ring, including being crowned  
20          “Sportsman of the Century” by Sports Illustrated,  
21          being named “Athlete of the Century” by GQ maga-  
22          zine, being named “Sports Personality of the Cen-  
23          tury” by the British Broadcasting Corporation,  
24          being named “Kentucky Athlete of the Century” by  
25          the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, being named

1 “Kentuckian of the Century” by the State of Ken-  
2 tucky, being named “Louisvillian of the Century” by  
3 the Advertising Club of Louisville, being named  
4 “Boxer of the Century” by the World Sports Awards  
5 of the Century, being recognized by the Inter-  
6 national Boxing Hall of Fame, and receiving hon-  
7 orary doctorate degrees from Muhlenberg College  
8 and Western Kentucky University, as well as an  
9 honorary doctorate of humanities at Princeton Uni-  
10 versity’s 260th graduation ceremony.

11 (8) Muhammad Ali received the prestigious  
12 “Otto Hahn Peace Medal in Gold” from the United  
13 Nations Association of Germany for his work with  
14 the United Nations and the Civil Rights Movement  
15 in the United States.

16 (9) Muhammad Ali was selected by the Cali-  
17 fornia Bicentennial Foundation for the U.S. Con-  
18 stitution to personify the vitality of the Bill of  
19 Rights in various high-profile activities.

20 (10) Despite having been diagnosed with Par-  
21 kinson’s Syndrome in the early 1980s, Muhammad  
22 Ali has dedicated his life to the cause of universal  
23 human rights and freedom. His commitment to  
24 equal justice and peace has touched the lives of hun-  
25 dreds of thousands of people worldwide.

1           (11) President Jimmy Carter asked Muhammad  
2 Ali to meet with African leaders in Tanzania, Kenya,  
3 Nigeria, Liberia, and Senegal as part of President  
4 Carter’s diplomatic efforts on behalf of human rights  
5 in the 1980s.

6           (12) In 1990, Muhammad Ali traveled to the  
7 Middle East to seek the release of American and  
8 British hostages that were being held as human  
9 shields in the first Gulf War. As a result of his  
10 intervention, 15 United States hostages were freed  
11 on December 2nd.

12           (13) Muhammad Ali was chosen as the “U.N.  
13 Messenger of Peace” in 1998.

14           (14) Several Presidents of the United States  
15 have recognized Muhammad Ali, including President  
16 George W. Bush who, on November 17, 2002, called  
17 him “a man of peace” and stated that “across the  
18 world, billions of people know Muhammad Ali as a  
19 brave, compassionate, and charming man, and the  
20 American people are proud to call Muhammad Ali  
21 one of our own”, President Bill Clinton who stated  
22 that Muhammad Ali “captured the world’s imagina-  
23 tion and its heart. Outside the ring, Muhammad Ali  
24 has dedicated his life to working for children, feed-  
25 ing the hungry, supporting his faith, and standing

1 up for racial equality. He has always fought for a  
2 just and more humane world, breaking down bar-  
3 riers here in America and around the world. There  
4 are no telling how many tens of millions of people  
5 had their hearts swell with pride and their eyes swell  
6 with tears in 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the  
7 Olympic torch, because we know, now and forever,  
8 he is the greatest”, President Jimmy Carter who  
9 cited Muhammad Ali as “Mr. International Friend-  
10 ship”, and President Barack Obama who, as a Sen-  
11 ator, had a framed picture of Muhammad Ali hang-  
12 ing in his office, and before announcing his inten-  
13 tions to run for President, Obama visited with Mu-  
14 hammad Ali at the Ali Center in Louisville, Ken-  
15 tucky.

16 (15) Muhammad Ali continues to encourage hu-  
17 manity through his perseverance and the support of  
18 thousands of people. He has helped such organiza-  
19 tions as the Chicago-based adoption agency, The  
20 Cradle; the Make-A-Wish Foundation; the Special  
21 Olympics’ organization, Best Buddies; and Herbert  
22 E. Birch Services, an organization that runs a  
23 school for handicapped children and young adults, in  
24 addition to a summer camp for children infected  
25 with AIDS.

1           (16) Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie are  
2       founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson  
3       Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and have helped raise  
4       over \$50 million for Parkinson’s research. The Cen-  
5       ter’s mission is to provide excellence in treatment,  
6       research, and education for patients and families af-  
7       fected by Parkinson’s disease and other movement  
8       disorders, regardless of ability to pay.

9           (17) Muhammad Ali is an inspiration to count-  
10      less individuals with Parkinson’s disease, including  
11      members of the Rock Steady Boxing Foundation in  
12      Indianapolis, Indiana, which was founded to give  
13      people with Parkinson’s disease hope by improving  
14      their quality of life using boxing for fitness.

15          (18) Muhammad Ali is one of the founding  
16      members of Athletes for Hope, an organization cre-  
17      ated by a few very successful athletes of exemplary  
18      character who have a deep commitment to charitable  
19      and community causes.

20          (19) Muhammad Ali also established the Mu-  
21      hammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville,  
22      Kentucky, which promotes respect, hope, and under-  
23      standing, and inspires people everywhere to be as  
24      great as they can be. A visitor of the Muhammad Ali  
25      Center experiences the “hows” of Ali’s life: how he

1 found the courage, the dedication, and the discipline  
2 to become who he is today; how he found the convic-  
3 tion to stand up for what he believed; and how he  
4 turned his passion for excellence in the ring to a  
5 passion for peace on the world stage.

6 (20) Like Muhammad Ali himself, the Muham-  
7 mad Ali Center focuses on what brings individuals  
8 together, not what sets them apart, and is a “global  
9 gathering place” to which people can come, both on-  
10 line and in person, to learn, share, and celebrate our  
11 commonalities as human beings and to formulate  
12 ways of advancing humanity.

13 (21) Muhammad Ali has helped to provide more  
14 than 22,000,000 aid packets to assist people in  
15 need, and until recently traveled, on average, more  
16 than 200 days per year for humanitarian causes.

17 (22) Muhammad Ali, known simply as “the  
18 greatest”, has transcended the glamour and glory of  
19 being a sports champion to become not only one of  
20 the greatest sports figures, but one of the greatest  
21 role models of our time.

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

23 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
24 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-  
25 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements

1 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold  
2 medal of appropriate design, to Muhammad Ali in recogni-  
3 tion of his contributions to the Nation.

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

10 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

11 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-  
12 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
13 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 at  
14 a price sufficient to cover the cost of the bronze medals  
15 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and  
16 overhead expenses) and the cost of the gold medal.

17 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

20 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
21 **SALE.**

22 (a) AUTHORIZATION TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—  
23 There is authorized to be charged against the United  
24 States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as

1 may be necessary to pay for the cost of the medals struck  
2 pursuant to this Act.

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

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