

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3287

To award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the recipients of assistance under the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (commonly referred to as the “GI Bill of Rights”) in recognition of the great contributions such recipients made to the Nation in both their military and civilian service and the contributions of Harry W. Colmery in initiating actions which led to the enactment of that Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2010

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Achievements of the
3 GI Bill Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) The life of Harry W. Colmery of Topeka,
7 Kansas, was marked by exemplary service to his
8 country.

9 (2) Harry Colmery served the United States
10 with distinction during World War I as a first lieu-
11 tenant and pilot instructor in the Army Air Corps.

12 (3) Upon his return, Harry Colmery remained
13 involved in issues important to the United States
14 Armed Forces and veterans community through the
15 American Legion, serving as the national com-
16 mander of the American Legion from 1936 to 1937.

17 (4) In 1943, the United States faced an un-
18 precedented number of servicemen and women re-
19 turning from World War II to civilian life, more
20 than 15,000,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Ma-
21 rines.

22 (5) Harry Colmery, and others with the Amer-
23 ican Legion, helped spearhead efforts to ensure that
24 government programs were in place to ensure that
25 these members of the United States Armed Forces
26 would face an easy transition back to civilian life.

1 (6) During a December 1943 emergency meet-
2 ing of American Legion leadership to address these
3 concerns at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington,
4 DC, Harry Colmery crafted the initial draft of the
5 Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, also known
6 as the “GI Bill of Rights”.

7 (7) This pioneering piece of legislation sought
8 to help GIs buy homes, start businesses, and attend
9 college or technical school upon their return from
10 World War II.

11 (8) Due to Harry Colmery’s advocacy, Presi-
12 dent Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill of
13 Rights into law on June 22, 1944.

14 (9) In the decade following World War II, more
15 than 2,000,000 eligible men and women went to col-
16 lege using the GI Bill of Rights, and another
17 5,000,000 received other schooling or job training
18 under the GI Bill.

19 (10) From 1944 to 1952, the Veterans Admin-
20 istration backed nearly 2,400,000 home loans for
21 World War II veterans due to the GI Bill of Rights.

22 (11) The GI Bill of Rights has been heralded
23 as one of the most significant pieces of legislation
24 ever produced by the Federal Government, one that

1 has impacted the United States socially, economi-
2 cally, and politically.

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

4 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
5 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
6 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
7 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single
8 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the recipients
9 of assistance under the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of
10 1944 (commonly referred to as the “GI Bill of Rights”),
11 in recognition of the great contributions such recipients
12 made to the Nation in both their military and civilian serv-
13 ice and the contributions of Harry W. Colmery in initi-
14 ating actions which led to the enactment of that Act.

15 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the presen-
17 tation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of
18 the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
19 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
20 blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by
21 the Secretary.

22 (2) OBVERSE AND REVERSE.—The obverse of
23 the gold medal shall bear the image of Harry W.
24 Colmery and the reverse shall bear a design emblem-
25 atic of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944

1 and the achievements of the recipients of assistance
2 under such Act.

3 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
5 gold medal in honor of the recipients of assistance
6 under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944
7 under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given
8 to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be avail-
9 able for display as appropriate and made available
10 for research.

11 (2) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense
12 of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution
13 should make the gold medal received under para-
14 graph (1) available for display elsewhere, particu-
15 larly at other appropriate locations selected by the
16 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of De-
17 fense, or the Secretary of Education.

18 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
3 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
4 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 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
18 Enterprise Fund.

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