

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1862

To grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2013

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

A BILL

To grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Monuments Men Rec-
5 ognition Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On June 23, 1943, President Franklin D.
2 Roosevelt formed the “American Commission for the
3 Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic
4 Monuments in War Areas”.

5 (2) The Commission established the Monu-
6 ments, Fine Arts, and Archives (“MFAA”) Section
7 under the Allied Armies.

8 (3) The men and women serving in the MFAA
9 Section were referred to as the “Monuments Men”.

10 (4) These individuals had expertise as museum
11 directors, curators, art historians, artists, architects,
12 and educators.

13 (5) In December 1943, General Dwight D. Ei-
14 senhower empowered the Monuments Men by issuing
15 orders to all commanders that stated they must re-
16 spect monuments “so far as war allows”.

17 (6) Initially the Monuments Men were intended
18 to protect and temporarily repair the monuments,
19 churches, and cathedrals of Europe suffering dam-
20 age due to combat.

21 (7) Hitler and the Nazis engaged in a pre-medi-
22 tated, mass theft of art and stored priceless works
23 in thousands of art repositories throughout Europe.

24 (8) The Monuments Men adapted their mission
25 to identify, preserve, catalogue, and repatriate al-

1 most 5,000,000 artistic and cultural items which
2 they discovered.

3 (9) This magnitude of cultural preservation was
4 unprecedented during a time of conflict.

5 (10) The Monuments Men grew to no more
6 than 350 individuals and joined front line military
7 forces; two Monuments Men lost their lives in action.

8 (11) Following the Allied victory the Monu-
9 ments Men remained abroad to rebuild cultural life
10 in Europe through organizing art exhibitions and
11 concerts.

12 (12) Many of the Monuments Men became re-
13 nowned directors and curators of preeminent inter-
14 national cultural institutions, professors at institu-
15 tions of higher education, and founders of artistic
16 associations both before and after the war.

17 (13) The Monuments Men Foundation for the
18 Preservation of Art was founded in 2007 to honor
19 the legacy of the men and women who served as
20 Monuments Men.

21 (14) There are only five surviving members of
22 the Monuments Men as of December 2013.

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

24 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
25 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-

1 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
2 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
3 medal of appropriate design in commemoration to Monu-
4 ments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the pres-
5 ervation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works
6 of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and fol-
7 lowing World War II.

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

14 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
16 gold medal in honor of the Monuments Men, the
17 gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Insti-
18 tution, where it will be available for display as ap-
19 propriate and available for research.

20 (2) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense
21 of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution
22 should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to
23 this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly
24 at appropriate locations associated with the Monu-

1 ments Men, and that preference should be given to
2 locations affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution.

3 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

4 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
5 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3
6 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
7 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
8 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
9 and the cost of the gold medal.

10 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

11 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
12 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
13 51 of title 31, United States Code.

14 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
15 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
16 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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