

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 381

AN ACT

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

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. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) on April 18, 1942, the brave men of the
4 17th Bombardment Group (Medium) became known
5 as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” for outstanding
6 heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United
7 States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo;

8 (2) 80 brave American aircraft crewmen, led by
9 Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, volunteered for
10 an “extremely hazardous mission”, without knowing
11 the target, location, or assignment, and willingly put
12 their lives in harm’s way, risking death, capture, and
13 torture;

14 (3) the conduct of medium bomber operations
15 from a Navy aircraft carrier under combat condi-
16 tions had never before been attempted;

17 (4) after the discovery of the USS Hornet by
18 Japanese picket ships 170 miles further away from
19 the prearranged launch point, the Doolittle Tokyo
20 Raiders proceeded to take off 670 miles from the
21 coast of Japan;

22 (5) by launching more than 100 miles beyond
23 the distance considered to be minimally safe for the
24 mission, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders deliberately ac-
25 cepted the risk that the B-25s might not have

1 enough fuel to reach the designated air-fields in
2 China on return;

3 (6) the additional launch distance greatly in-
4 creased the risk of crash landing in Japanese occu-
5 pied China, exposing the crews to higher probability
6 of death, injury, or capture;

7 (7) because of that deliberate choice, after
8 bombing their targets in Japan, low on fuel and in
9 setting night and deteriorating weather, none of the
10 16 airplanes reached the prearranged Chinese air-
11 fields;

12 (8) of the 80 Doolittle Tokyo Raiders who
13 launched on the raid, 8 were captured, 2 died in the
14 crash, and 70 returned to the United States;

15 (9) of the 8 captured Doolittle Tokyo Raiders,
16 3 were executed and 1 died of disease; and

17 (10) there were only 5 surviving members of
18 the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders as of February 2013.

19 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

20 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President
21 pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
22 of Representatives shall make appropriate arrangements
23 for the award, on behalf of Congress, of 6 gold medals
24 of appropriate design in honor of the World War II mem-
25 bers of the 17th Bombardment Group (Medium) who be-

1 came known as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, in recogni-
2 tion of their military service during World War II.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
4 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
5 Treasury shall strike the gold medals with suitable em-
6 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
7 Secretary.

8 (c) FOLLOWING AWARD OF MEDALS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
10 gold medals referred to in subsection (a), 5 of the
11 gold medals shall be given to the 5 surviving mem-
12 bers of the mission as of February 2013 or their
13 next of kin, with a sixth medal to be given to the
14 National Museum of the United States Air Force,
15 where it shall be displayed with the Doolittle Tokyo
16 Raiders Goblets, as appropriate, and made available
17 for research.

18 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
19 Congress that the National Museum of the United
20 States Air Force should make the gold medal re-
21 ceived under paragraph (1) available for display else-
22 where, particularly at other locations and events as-
23 sociated with the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders.

1 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATIVE 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 this Act, at a price
 5 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
 6 materials, dyes, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

7 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

8 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck pursuant to
 9 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
 10 of title 31, United States Code.

11 (b) NUMISMATIC MEDALS.—For purposes of sections
 12 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
 13 struck under this Act are numismatic items.

Passed the Senate November 19, 2013.

Attest:

Secretary.

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