

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3223

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Timothy Nugent, in recognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with disabilities, including disabled veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Timothy Nugent, in recognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with disabilities, including disabled veterans.

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 “Timothy Nugent Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Timothy Nugent is considered the “Father
9 of Accessibility” and the “Godfather of Rehabilita-

tion Education” on college campuses and has been a relentless innovator and advocate for disabled people in the United States;

(2) Nugent founded the first higher educational program for wounded and disabled soldiers in the world after World War II at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign;

(3) under the leadership of Nugent, the University of Illinois became a pioneer of architectural access, adding curb cuts and wheelchair-accessible bus routes that Nugent himself designed;

(4) when ramps were needed in the place of steps, Nugent built the first ramps in his garage;

(5) even today, many of the architectural accessibility standards and laws of the United States trace back directly to innovations created by Nugent;

(6) while at the University of Illinois, Nugent also oversaw the development of adaptive sports programs accommodating athletes in wheelchairs;

(7) in the years after World War II, Nugent confronted the pervasive ableism of the general public in his efforts to bring students with disabilities into the mainstream of college campuses and society;

(8) sadly, many people believed that people in wheelchairs did not belong on college campuses,

1 studying alongside students without limitations in
2 mobility;

3 (9) many people in the medical community,
4 whom Nugent proved wrong, believed that rehabilita-
5 tion and sporting activities were harmful to individ-
6 uals with such severe disabilities or that education
7 was not necessary because of their belief that the
8 lifespan of persons with spinal cord injuries would be
9 too short for them to benefit from college degrees;

10 (10) Nugent fought back and secured the right
11 to higher education and mainstream educational in-
12 tegration for millions of people with disabilities in
13 the United States; and

14 (11) Nugent would be the first person awarded
15 a Congressional Gold Medal for work on behalf of
16 persons with disabilities.

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

18 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
19 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
20 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
21 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
22 medal of appropriate design to Timothy Nugent, in rec-
23 ognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with
24 disabilities, including disabled veterans.

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

7 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

14 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

15 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national med-
16 als for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United
17 States Code.

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