

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5887

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, jointly, to all U.S. nationals who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force or the Royal Air Force during World War II, both before and after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, jointly, to all U.S. nationals who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force or the Royal Air Force during World War II, both before and after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, in recognition of their 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “RCAF/RAF-Americans
5 Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Europe was at war before the end of 1939.
4 England and her British Commonwealth of Nations,
5 which included the Dominion of Canada, were war-
6 ring with Nazi Germany.

7 (2) Early in World War II the Royal Canadian
8 Air Force (RCAF) needed large numbers of pilots
9 and the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan
10 (BCATP) made Canada a center for aircrew train-
11 ing.

12 (3) Approximately 8,864 Americans volunteered
13 to join the RCAF beginning as early as 1940 and
14 continuing throughout World War II. These RCAF-
15 Americans came from every state in the Union.

16 (4) Many of the RCAF-Americans were ur-
17 gently needed as flying instructors and helped to
18 fully staff the BCATP operations.

19 (5) Approximately 750 Americans (244 with
20 the highly regarded Eagle Squadrons) also served in
21 Great Britain with the RAF. The Eagle Squadrons
22 served from February, 1941, until September, 1942,
23 and provided the British welcome relief from the
24 stress of losing large numbers of combat pilots.

25 (6) President Franklin Roosevelt called the
26 BCATP the “Aerodrome Of Democracy”. Canadian

1 Prime Minister Mackenzie King, General Dwight Ei-
2 senhower, and British Prime Minister Winston
3 Churchill, all expressed their gratitude to the United
4 States men and women who took part in the British
5 Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

6 (7) Approximately 3,794 Americans transferred
7 to the U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) after the at-
8 tack on Pearl Harbor. The 3 Eagle Squadrons
9 (No. 71/No. 121/No. 133), transferred into the 4th
10 Fighter Group, USAAF in September 1942.

11 (8) The transfer of these courageous RCAF/
12 RAF-Americans helped prevent a shortage of experi-
13 enced airmen in the aftermath of America's entry
14 into the war.

15 (9) Many of these highly trained and experi-
16 enced RCAF/RAF-Americans pilots performed cru-
17 cial roles as flight instructors for the USAAF.

18 (10) The accumulated knowledge and skills pos-
19 sessed by these RCAF/RAF-American airmen re-
20 sulted in many becoming highly accomplished
21 USAAF combat pilots.

22 (11) One of the most highly decorated military
23 groups, the American Fighter Aces, can count many
24 of these RCAF/RAF-Americans among their vener-
25 able ranks.

1 (12) These brave Americans left their families
2 to join the RCAF/RAF and over 800 lost their lives
3 while serving. They represent the exceptional cour-
4 age that has been displayed in the defense of Free-
5 dom throughout our Nation's history.

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

7 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
8 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
9 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
10 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a single
11 gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration of all
12 U.S. nationals who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force
13 or the Royal Air Force during World War II, both before
14 and after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, in recognition
15 of their contributions to the Nation.

16 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
17 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
18 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
19 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
20 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
21 retary.

22 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
24 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
25 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where

1 it will be available for display as appropriate and
2 available for research.

3 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
4 the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution
5 should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to
6 this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly
7 at appropriate locations associated with the U.S. na-
8 tionals described under subsection (a), and that
9 preference should be given to locations affiliated
10 with the Smithsonian Institution.

11 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

18 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

19 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
20 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
21 51 of title 31, United States Code.

22 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
23 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
24 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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