

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 450

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to members of the Armed Forces who fought in defense of Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippine Archipelago between December 7, 1941 and May 10, 1942, and who died or were imprisoned by the Japanese military in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Wake Island, and Guam from April 9, 1942 until September 2, 1945, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to the United States.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Mr. MANCHIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## 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 “Pacific Defenders of  
3 World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       Congress finds that—

6           (1) Guam was captured by Imperial Japanese  
7 forces on December 10, 1941, 3 days after the at-  
8 tack on Pearl Harbor and remained in the hands of  
9 the Japanese until June 1944;

10          (2) the prisoners who remained on Guam suf-  
11 fered atrocities at the hands of the Japanese, with  
12 some prisoners being transported on hell ships to  
13 Japanese prisoner of war camps;

14          (3) on December 22, 1941, the Japanese took  
15 approximately 1,600 prisoners on Wake Island;

16          (4) approximately 450 members of the Armed  
17 Forces and 1,150 civilians were captured on Wake  
18 Island and transported on hell ships to prisoner of  
19 war camps in China and Japan;

20          (5) Major General Edward King led the com-  
21 bined Philippine-United States force of 75,000  
22 troops in the defense of the Bataan peninsula, until  
23 April 9, 1942, at which point, due to diminishing re-  
24 sources and disease, Major General King surren-  
25 dered soldiers from the United States and the Com-  
26 monwealth of the Philippines into enemy hands;

1           (6) over the next week, the soldiers from the  
2       United States and the Philippine Commonwealth  
3       were taken prisoner and forced to march 65 miles  
4       without food, water, or medical care in what came  
5       to be known as the Bataan Death March, where ap-  
6       proximately 600 members of the Armed Forces and  
7       between 5,000 and 10,000 Filipino soldiers died  
8       from starvation disease, exposure, exhaustion, and  
9       abuse by their captors;

10          (7) on May 6, 1942, the resistance reached its  
11       limitations after a weeklong siege and Lieutenant  
12       General Wainwright, as authorized by President  
13       Roosevelt, surrendered the remaining 11,000 troops  
14       on Corregidor Island;

15          (8) on May 10, 1942, the only remaining resist-  
16       ance force in the archipelago, under the command of  
17       Major General William F. Sharp, surrendered after  
18       fighting the Japanese from April 29, 1942, to May  
19       9, 1942, on the island of Mindanao, at which point  
20       Lieutenant General Jonathan Wainwright, as Su-  
21       preme Allied Commander, surrendered all Allied  
22       Forces in the Philippine archipelago;

23          (9) within the first 40 days 1,600 more United  
24       States prisoners died at Camp O'Donnell, a pre-war  
25       training camp turned prisoner of war camp, which

1 had substandard conditions, leading to increased dis-  
2 ease and malnutrition among the prisoners;

3 (10) in May 1942, the Japanese began trans-  
4 ferring prisoners of war by sea to Japan, Taiwan,  
5 Korea, Manchuria, Sumatra, Burma, and Siam;

6 (11) during the transfer, prisoners were  
7 crammed into cargo holds with little air, food or  
8 water for journeys that would last for weeks on what  
9 were to be known as the hell ships;

10 (12) many died due to asphyxia, starvation, or  
11 dysentery and some prisoners became delirious and  
12 unresponsive in an environment of heat, humidity  
13 and lack of oxygen, food, and water;

14 (13) estimates of more than 126,000 Allied  
15 prisoners of war were transported in 156 voyages on  
16 134 Japanese merchant ships, of whom more than  
17 21,000 people of the United States were killed or in-  
18 jured;

19 (14) on June 6, 1942, 6,000 United States  
20 prisoners of war were transferred to Cabanatuan,  
21 north of Camp O'Donnell, where they were assigned  
22 to work details and hard labor and where 3,000  
23 members of the Armed Forces died from disease,  
24 starvation, beatings, and executions;

1           (15) the campus of the University of Santo  
2       Tomás in Manila was converted to the Santo Tomás  
3       Internment Camp by the Japanese during their oc-  
4       cupation of the Philippines, from January 1942  
5       until February 1945;

6           (16) Santo Tomás became the internment camp  
7       for United States Army and Navy nurses also known  
8       as “the Angels of Bataan and Corregidor”, who con-  
9       tinued to serve as a nursing unit while imprisoned  
10      and until their liberation;

11          (17) the prisoners who remained in the camps  
12      suffered from continued mistreatment, malnutrition,  
13      lack of medical care, and horrific conditions;

14          (18) Operation Blacklist began in early 1945 to  
15      locate, recover, and repatriate all prisoners of war;

16          (19) over the subsequent decades, these pris-  
17      oners formed support groups, were honored in local  
18      and State memorials, and told their story to the peo-  
19      ple of the United States; and

20          (20) the people of the United States are forever  
21      indebted to these men and women for—

22                (A) the courage they demonstrated during  
23                the first 4 months of World War II in fighting  
24                against enemy soldiers; and

1 (B) the perseverance they demonstrated  
2 during subsequent years of capture and impris-  
3 onment under brutal conditions, while maintain-  
4 ing their dignity, honor, patriotism, and loyalty.

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

6 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
7 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
8 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
9 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
10 medal of appropriate design in commemoration of mem-  
11 bers of the Armed Forces who fought in defense of Guam,  
12 Wake Island, and the Philippine archipelago between De-  
13 cember 7, 1941, and May 10, 1942, and who died or were  
14 imprisoned by the Japanese military in the Philippines,  
15 Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Wake Island, and Guam from  
16 April 9, 1942, until September 2, 1945, in recognition of  
17 their personal sacrifice and service to the United States.

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

23 (c) TRANSFER AND DISPLAY OF MEDALS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the presentation  
25 of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold

1 medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution,  
2 where it shall be displayed as appropriate and made  
3 available for research.

4 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
5 the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution  
6 should make the gold medal received under para-  
7 graph (1) available for display at other locations,  
8 particularly such locations as are associated with the  
9 members of the Armed Forces described under sub-  
10 section (a).

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

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

18 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

19 The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national  
20 medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United  
21 States Code.

