

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4603

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Prince Rogers Nelson in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the culture of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2022

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Prince Rogers Nelson in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the culture of the United States.

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 “Prince Congressional
5 Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Prince Rogers Nelson (referred to in this
9 Act as “Prince”) was born in Minneapolis, Min-

1 nesota, on June 7, 1958, the son of jazz singer
2 Mattie Della (née Shaw) and pianist and songwriter
3 John Louis Nelson. Widely regarded as one of the
4 greatest musicians of his generation, Prince’s inno-
5 vative music incorporated elements of rock, R&B,
6 funk, hip-hop, new wave, synth-pop, and jazz.

7 (2) Prince released 39 albums during his life-
8 time and produced countless others, along with
9 many unreleased projects left in a vault at his home.

10 (3) Recognized as a musical prodigy from an
11 early age, Prince signed a recording contract with
12 Warner Brothers Records at the age of 19, writing,
13 producing, arranging, and playing all 27 instruments
14 on the recording.

15 (4) Prince’s 1984 album “Purple Rain” spent
16 6 consecutive months as the number 1 record on the
17 Billboard 200 chart, spawning 5 top-10 hits, includ-
18 ing “When Doves Cry” and the title track. The film
19 “Purple Rain” won Prince the Academy Award for
20 Best Original Song Score and, in 2019, was added
21 by the Library of Congress for preservation in the
22 National Film Registry for being “culturally, histori-
23 cally, or aesthetically significant”.

24 (5) Prince’s 1987 double album “Sign o’ the
25 Times” included more than 80 minutes of music al-

1 most entirely composed and performed by Prince
2 and would go on to become his most acclaimed
3 record, including being voted 1987's best album in
4 the Pazz & Jop Critics' Poll. In 2017, the album
5 was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

6 (6) A prolific composer, Prince wrote many
7 songs made famous by other musicians, including
8 "Nothing Compares 2 U", "Manic Monday", and "I
9 Feel For You".

10 (7) An advocate for artistic freedom and ex-
11 pression, Prince—

12 (A) changed his name to a symbol (com-
13 monly known as the "Prince Symbol") to pro-
14 test the terms of his recording contract and the
15 recording industry's treatment of all artists;
16 and

17 (B) publicly advocated for artists to be
18 able to maintain ownership of their own master
19 recordings.

20 (8) A lifelong Minnesota resident, Prince was a
21 participant in, and supporter of, the local Min-
22 neapolis arts community, memorialized in songs like
23 "Uptown".

1 (9) Though he did not speak publicly of his
2 charity work, Prince was an animal rights activist
3 and a philanthropist.

4 (10) Prince sold more than 150,000,000
5 records worldwide, ranking among the best selling
6 artists of all time.

7 (11) Prince was one of the most acclaimed art-
8 ists of all time and he and his music were recognized
9 as follows:

10 (A) Prince won 7 Grammy Awards, 7 Brit
11 Awards, 6 American Music Awards, 4 MTV
12 Video Music Awards, an Academy Award for
13 Best Original Song Score for the film “Purple
14 Rain”, and a Golden Globe Award.

15 (B) Prince was inducted into the Rock and
16 Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, the UK Music Hall
17 of Fame in 2006, and the Rhythm and Blues
18 Music Hall of Fame in 2016.

19 (C) Prince received the BET Lifetime
20 Achievement Award in 2010.

21 (D) In 2016, Prince was posthumously
22 honored with a doctor of humane letters by the
23 University of Minnesota.

24 (E) Two of Prince’s albums, “Purple
25 Rain” and “Sign o’ the Times”, received nomi-

1 nations for the Grammy Award for Album of
2 the Year.

3 (F) At the 28th Grammy Awards, Prince
4 was awarded the President’s Merit Award.

5 (G) Prince was honored with the American
6 Music Award for Achievement and the Amer-
7 ican Music Award of Merit at the American
8 Music Awards of 1990 and 1995, respectively.

9 (H) At the 2013 Billboard Music Awards,
10 Prince was honored with the Billboard Icon
11 Award.

12 (12) Prince transcended this earthly plane on
13 April 21, 2016, in his Minnesota home, at 57 years
14 of age, leaving behind a legacy of musical achieve-
15 ment and an indelible mark on Minnesota and the
16 culture of the United States.

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 posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,
22 of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration
23 of Prince, in recognition of his achievements and contribu-
24 tions to the culture of the United States.

1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
2 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
3 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act 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 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
9 gold medal in honor of Prince under subsection (a),
10 the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian In-
11 stitution, where it shall be—

12 (A) available for display, as appropriate;

13 and

14 (B) made available for research.

15 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
16 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
17 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
18 available for display, particularly at the National
19 Museum of African American History and Culture,
20 or for loan, as appropriate, so that the gold medal
21 may be displayed elsewhere, particularly at other ap-
22 propriate locations associated with the life of Prince.

23 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

24 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
25 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3

1 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
2 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
3 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

4 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

5 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
6 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
7 of title 31, United States Code.

8 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
9 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
10 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
11 items.

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