

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9329

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Prince Hall, in recognition of his service to the Black Community as the founder of the first Black Masonic lodge.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 9, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Texas 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 posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Prince Hall, in recognition of his service to the Black Community as the founder of the first Black Masonic lodge.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) This Act is original legislation to post-
6 humously award a Congressional Gold Medal to
7 Prince Hall.

1 (2) Prince Hall was a free Black man who lived
2 in colonial Boston, Massachusetts circa 1735 to
3 1807.

4 (3) Prince Hall was an ardent abolitionist and
5 prolific activist in Boston, Massachusetts during the
6 American Revolutionary period.

7 (4) In 1775, after being denied by an all-White
8 Masonic lodge, Hall and 14 other free Black men
9 formed their own lodge.

10 (5) Prince Hall was elected as the leader, or
11 “Worshipful Master”, within the newly formed Afri-
12 can Lodge #1, later renamed African Lodge No.
13 459.

14 (6) Because of this action Prince Hall is known
15 as the “Father of Black Freemasonry”.

16 (7) Prince Hall Freemasonry is recognized by
17 many as the oldest continuously active organization
18 founded by African Americans in the United States.

19 (8) The Prince Hall Freemasons employed ad-
20 vocacy and community work to assist Blacks seeking
21 citizenship, education, and economic advancement.

22 (9) In 1777, Prince Hall petitioned the Massa-
23 chusetts government to abolish slavery and is consid-
24 ered by some to be the first to publicly proclaim that

1 Black people should be granted the rights laid out
2 in the Declaration of Independence.

3 (10) In 1787, a committee of 12 from the Afri-
4 can Lodge, headed by Worshipful Master Hall,
5 drafted, “The Boston Plan—a detailed plan for Afri-
6 can Americans to return to Africa—to free them-
7 selves from their hostile living conditions in the
8 United States”.

9 (11) The resettlement plan requested the Mas-
10 sachusetts General Court to provide passage for
11 families with the necessary provisions, utensils, and
12 articles, as well as money to procure lands to settle
13 upon.

14 (12) In 1788, Prince Hall petitioned the Massa-
15 chusetts legislature to protect Black sailors from
16 being kidnapped and sold into slavery.

17 (13) Prince Hall’s influence remains within the
18 5,000 lodges and 47 grand lodges who trace their
19 lineage to the original lodge he founded.

20 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

21 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
22 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
23 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
24 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of ap-
25 propriate design dedicated to Prince Hall, in recognition

1 of his service to the Black Community as the founder of
2 the first Black Masonic lodge.

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

8 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
10 gold medal described in subsection (a), the gold
11 medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution,
12 where it shall be displayed at the National Museum
13 of African American History and Culture and made
14 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 elsewhere, particularly at other
19 appropriate locations associated with Prince Hall.

20 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

21 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
22 bronze of the gold medals struck under section 2, at a
23 price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor,
24 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
6 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
7 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
8 items.

9 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
10 **SALE.**

11 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
12 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
13 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
14 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
15 this Act.

16 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
17 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
18 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
19 Enterprise Fund.

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