

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3531

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Sergeant Alfredo “Freddy” Gonzalez, in recognition of his heroism in the Vietnam War in February 1968.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2025

Ms. DE LA CRUZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Sergeant Alfredo “Freddy” Gonzalez, in recognition of his heroism in the Vietnam War in February 1968.

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 “Sergeant Alfredo
5 ‘Freddy’ Gonzalez Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Alfredo Gonzalez was posthumously award-
2 ed the Medal of Honor for heroism in the Vietnam
3 War in February 1968.

4 (2) Gonzalez was born May 23, 1946, in Edin-
5 burg, Texas. He graduated from Lamar Grammar
6 School, 1955, and from Edinburg High School,
7 1965.

8 (3) Gonzalez enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps
9 Reserve at San Antonio, Texas, June 3, 1965, and
10 was discharged to enlist as an active-duty Marine,
11 July 6, 1965.

12 (4) He completed recruit training with the 3d
13 Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit
14 Depot, San Diego, September 1965, and individual
15 combat training with the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry
16 Training Regiment, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pen-
17 dleton, California, October 1965.

18 (5) After completing individual combat training,
19 he became a rifleman with Headquarters and Service
20 Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine
21 Division, and served in that capacity until January
22 1966. Following this, he saw a one-year tour of duty
23 as a rifleman and squadron leader with Company L,
24 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division. He
25 was promoted to private first class on Jan. 1, 1966,

1 to lance corporal on Oct. 1, 1966, and to corporal
2 on Dec. 1, 1966.

3 (6) Upon returning to the United States in
4 February 1967, he joined to 3d Replacement Com-
5 pany, Staging Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp
6 Pendleton, for transfer to the Far East.

7 (7) On July 1, 1967, he was promoted to ser-
8 geant, and later that month arrived in the Republic
9 of Vietnam. He served as a squad leader and platoon
10 sergeant with the 3d Platoon, Company A, 1st Bat-
11 talion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division.

12 (8) While serving as platoon commander, 3d
13 Platoon, Company A, on 31 January 1968, during
14 the initial phase of Operation Hue City, Sgt. Gon-
15 zalez' unit was formed as a reaction force and de-
16 ployed to Hue to relieve the pressure on the belea-
17 guered city. While moving by truck convoy along
18 Route No. 1, near the village of Lang Van Lrong,
19 the marines received a heavy volume of enemy fire.
20 Sgt. Gonzalez aggressively maneuvered the marines
21 in his platoon, and directed their fire until the area
22 was cleared of snipers. Immediately after crossing a
23 river south of Hue, the column was again hit by in-
24 tense enemy fire. One of the marines on top of a
25 tank was wounded and fell to the ground in an ex-

1 posed position. With complete disregard for his safe-
2 ty, Sgt. Gonzalez ran through the fire-swept area to
3 the assistance of his injured comrade. He lifted him
4 up and though receiving fragmentation wounds dur-
5 ing the rescue, he carried the wounded marine to a
6 covered position for treatment. Due to the increased
7 volume and accuracy of enemy fire from a fortified
8 machine-gun bunker on the side of the road, the
9 company was temporarily halted. Realizing the grav-
10 ity of the situation, Sgt. Gonzalez exposed himself to
11 the enemy fire and moved his platoon along the east
12 side of a bordering rice paddy to a dike directly
13 across from the bunker. Though fully aware of the
14 danger involved, he moved to the fire-swept road and
15 destroyed the hostile position with hand grenades.
16 Although seriously wounded again on 3 February, he
17 steadfastly refused medical treatment and continued
18 to supervise his men and lead the attack. On 4 Feb-
19 ruary, the enemy had again pinned the company
20 down, inflicting heavy casualties with automatic-
21 weapons and rocket fire. Sgt. Gonzalez, utilizing a
22 number of light antitank assault weapons, fearlessly
23 moved from position to position firing numerous
24 rounds at the heavily fortified enemy emplacements.
25 He successfully knocked out a rocket position and

1 suppressed much of the enemy fire before falling
2 mortally wounded. The heroism, courage, and dy-
3 namic leadership displayed by Sgt. Gonzalez re-
4 flected great credit upon himself and the Marine
5 Corps and were in keeping with the highest tradi-
6 tions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave
7 his life for his country.

8 (9) His complete list of medals and decorations
9 include: the Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, the
10 Presidential Unit Citation, the National Defense
11 Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two
12 bronze stars, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with
13 star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm,
14 the Military Merit Medal and the Republic of Viet-
15 nam Campaign Medal. He also serves as the name-
16 sake for USS Gonzalez (DDG 66).

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

18 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
19 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
20 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
21 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of ap-
22 propriate design dedicated to Sergeant Alfredo Gonzalez,
23 in recognition of his heroism in the Vietnam War in Feb-
24 ruary 1968.

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

6 (c) MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS HISTORY.—Following
7 the award of the gold medal described in subsection (a),
8 the gold medal shall be given to the Museum of South
9 Texas History, where it shall be displayed as appropriate
10 and made available for research.

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

12 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
13 bronze of the gold medals struck under section 3, at a
14 price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor,
15 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

16 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

20 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
21 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
22 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
23 items.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
2 **SALE.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
5 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
7 this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
10 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
11 Enterprise Fund.

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