

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8963

To award the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously to Edinburg, Texas war hero Lance Corporal Dustin Sekula, in recognition of his heroic life.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2026

Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself and Mr. McCAUL) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To award the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously to Edinburg, Texas war hero Lance Corporal Dustin Sekula, in recognition of his heroic life.

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 “Lance Corporal Dustin  
5 Sekula Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that:

8 (1) Dustin Sekula was born on June 8, 1985,  
9 in Edinburg, Texas, and graduated from Edinburg  
10 North High School in 2003.

1           (2) Dustin was a kind, loyal, and loving son  
2           and brother.

3           (3) Dustin was skilled at ranching and loved  
4           roping steers. He used his high school lunch period  
5           to practice roping on a fake steer.

6           (4) Dustin turned down an agriculture college  
7           scholarship to join the Marines and serve his coun-  
8           try at the age of 17.

9           (5) At 18, an infantry mortarman of the 2nd  
10          Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Divi-  
11          sion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Dustin died  
12          due to injuries sustained from enemy fire in Al  
13          Anbar Province, Iraq, on April 1, 2004.

14          (6) More than 1,000 people filled Trinity Wor-  
15          ship Center for his funeral service.

16          (7) Dustin is buried in Palm Valley Memorial  
17          Gardens in Pharr, Texas.

18          (8) The Dustin Sekula Memorial Library  
19          (DMSML) located in Edinburg, Texas, is named  
20          after Marine Lance Corporal Dustin Michael Sekula.

21          (9) He was the first Edinburg native to be  
22          killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

23          (10) He is not forgotten.

1 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
3 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
4 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
5 for the posthumous presentation, to the family of Lance  
6 Corporal Dustin Sekula on behalf of the Congress, of a  
7 gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration of  
8 Lance Corporal Dustin Sekula, Edinburg, Texas war hero,  
9 in recognition of his heroic life.

10 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
11 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
12 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-  
13 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,  
14 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-  
15 retary.

16 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

17 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
18 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price  
19 sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, mate-  
20 rials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

21 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

25 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
26 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals

1 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
2 items.

3 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
4 **SALE.**

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

10 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
11 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
12 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
13 Enterprise Fund.

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