

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 366

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali,
in recognition of his contributions to the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Mr. PADILLA 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 Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions to 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 “Muhammad Ali Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., on Janu-
9 ary 17, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, Muhammad

1 Ali was the first child of Cassius, Sr., and Odessa
2 Clay.

3 (2) Muhammad Ali was one of the most cele-
4 brated athletes of the 20th century. He produced
5 some of the greatest sports memories in the United
6 States, from winning a gold medal at the 1960 Sum-
7 mer Olympics to lighting the Olympic torch at the
8 1996 Summer Olympics.

9 (3) After an impressive amateur career, during
10 which he won 2 National AAU light heavyweight ti-
11 tles, Muhammad Ali became the first professional
12 boxer in history to capture the heavyweight title 3
13 separate times.

14 (4) On April 28, 1967, he was stripped of his
15 boxing title and barred from competing for being a
16 conscientious objector to the war in Vietnam on reli-
17 gious and moral grounds. However, following a
18 unanimous decision by the Supreme Court of the
19 United States in 1971, Muhammad Ali's conscien-
20 tious objector status was confirmed, his boxing li-
21 cense was reinstated, and he was cleared of any
22 wrongdoing.

23 (5) As an African American and a Muslim who
24 lived in an era that continued to question his civil
25 rights, Muhammad Ali battled issues of race and re-

1 ligion, and received recognition as one of the cham-
 2 pions of the Civil Rights Movement in the United
 3 States.

4 (6) Muhammad Ali was the recipient of many
 5 awards for his sporting prowess and his support of
 6 racial harmony, including the Dr. Martin Luther
 7 King Memorial Award, the Spirit of America Award,
 8 the Amnesty International Lifetime Achievement
 9 Award, the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, the Es-
 10 sence Living Legend Award, the Rainbow Coalition
 11 Lifetime Achievement Award, the XNBA Human
 12 Spirit Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and
 13 the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

14 (7) Muhammad Ali was acknowledged by many
 15 organizations for his achievements both inside and
 16 outside the boxing ring, including being crowned
 17 “Sportsman of the Century” by Sports Illustrated,
 18 being named “Athlete of the Century” by GQ maga-
 19 zine, being named “Sports Personality of the Cen-
 20 tury” by the British Broadcasting Corporation,
 21 being named “Kentucky Athlete of the Century” by
 22 the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, being named
 23 “Kentuckian of the Century” by the State of Ken-
 24 tucky, being named “Louisvillian of the Century” by
 25 the Advertising Club of Louisville, being named

1 “Boxer of the Century” by the World Sports Awards
2 of the Century, being recognized by the Inter-
3 national Boxing Hall of Fame, and receiving hon-
4 orary doctorate degrees from Muhlenberg College
5 and Princeton University.

6 (8) Muhammad Ali received the prestigious
7 Otto Hahn Peace Medal in Gold from the United
8 Nations Association of Germany for his work with
9 the United Nations and the Civil Rights Movement
10 in the United States.

11 (9) Muhammad Ali was selected by the Cali-
12 fornia Bicentennial Foundation for the U.S. Con-
13 stitution for personifying the vitality of the Bill of
14 Rights in various high-profile activities.

15 (10) Despite having been diagnosed with Par-
16 kinson’s disease in the early 1980s, Muhammad Ali
17 dedicated his life to the cause of universal human
18 rights and freedom. His commitment to equal justice
19 and peace touched the lives of hundreds of thou-
20 sands of people worldwide.

21 (11) President Jimmy Carter asked Muhammad
22 Ali to meet with African leaders in Tanzania, Kenya,
23 Nigeria, Liberia, and Senegal as part of the diplo-
24 matic efforts of President Carter to promote human
25 rights in the 1980s.

1 (12) In 1990, Muhammad Ali traveled to the
2 Middle East to seek the release of United States and
3 British hostages that were being held as human
4 shields in the first Gulf War. As a result of his
5 intervention, 15 United States hostages were freed
6 on December 2nd of that year.

7 (13) In 1998, Muhammad Ali was chosen as
8 the “U.N. Messenger of Peace”.

9 (14) Several Presidents of the United States
10 recognized Muhammad Ali, including President
11 George W. Bush who, on November 17, 2002, called
12 him “a man of peace” and stated that “across the
13 world, billions of people know Muhammad Ali as a
14 brave, compassionate, and charming man, and the
15 American people are proud to call Muhammad Ali
16 one of our own”, President Bill Clinton who stated
17 that Muhammad Ali “captured the world’s imagina-
18 tion and its heart. Outside the ring, Muhammad Ali
19 has dedicated his life to working for children, feed-
20 ing the hungry, supporting his faith, and standing
21 up for racial equality. He always fought for a just
22 and more humane world, breaking down barriers
23 here in America and around the world. There is no
24 telling how many tens of millions of people had their
25 hearts swell with pride and their eyes swell with

1 tears in 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic
2 torch, because we know, now and forever, he is the
3 greatest”, President Jimmy Carter who cited Mu-
4 hammad Ali as “Mr. International Friendship”, and
5 President Barack Obama who, as a Senator, had a
6 framed picture of Muhammad Ali hanging in his of-
7 fice, and before announcing his intentions to run for
8 President, Obama visited with Muhammad Ali at the
9 Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

10 (15) Muhammad Ali encouraged humanity
11 through his perseverance and the support of thou-
12 sands of people. He helped such organizations as the
13 Chicago-based adoption agency, The Cradle, the
14 Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Special Olympics’ or-
15 ganization, Best Buddies; and Herbert E. Birch
16 Services, an organization that runs a school for
17 handicapped children and young adults, in addition
18 to a summer camp for children with AIDS.

19 (16) Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie were
20 the founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Par-
21 kinson Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and helped raise
22 over \$50,000,000 for Parkinson’s research. The
23 Center’s mission is to provide excellence in treat-
24 ment, research, and education for patients and fami-

1 lies affected by Parkinson’s disease and other move-
2 ment disorders, regardless of their ability to pay.

3 (17) Muhammad Ali was an inspiration to
4 countless individuals with Parkinson’s disease, in-
5 cluding members of the Rock Steady Boxing Foun-
6 dation in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was founded
7 to give people with Parkinson’s disease hope by im-
8 proving their quality of life using boxing for fitness.

9 (18) Muhammad Ali was one of the founding
10 members of Athletes for Hope, an organization cre-
11 ated by a few very successful athletes of exemplary
12 character who have a deep commitment to charitable
13 and community causes.

14 (19) Muhammad Ali also established the Mu-
15 hammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville,
16 Kentucky, which promotes respect, hope, and under-
17 standing, and inspires people everywhere to be as
18 great as they can be. A visitor of the Muhammad Ali
19 Center experiences the “hows” of Ali’s life: How he
20 found the courage, the dedication, and the discipline
21 to become a world champion, how he found the con-
22 viction to stand up for what he believed, and how he
23 turned his passion for excellence in the ring to a
24 passion for peace on the world stage.

1 (20) Like Muhammad Ali himself, the Muham-
 2 mad Ali Center focuses on what brings individuals
 3 together, not what sets them apart, and is a “global
 4 gathering place” to which people can come, both on-
 5 line and in person, to learn, share, and celebrate our
 6 commonalities as human beings and to formulate
 7 ways of advancing humanity.

8 (21) Muhammad Ali helped to provide more
 9 than 22,000,000 aid packets to assist people in
 10 need, and until the last years of his life, he traveled,
 11 on average, more than 200 days per year for human-
 12 itarian causes.

13 (22) Muhammad Ali, known simply as “the
 14 greatest”, transcended the glamour and glory of
 15 being a sports champion to become not only one of
 16 the greatest sports figures, but one of the greatest
 17 role models of our time.

18 (23) On June 3, 2016, Muhammad Ali died at
 19 the age of 74.

20 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

21 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
 22 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
 23 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
 24 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold

1 medal of appropriate design to Muhammad Ali, in recogni-
2 tion of his contributions to the United States.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
4 presentation described in subsection (a), the Secretary of
5 the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”)
6 shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices,
7 and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary. The
8 design shall bear an image of, and inscriptions of the name
9 of, “Muhammad Ali”.

10 (c) TRANSFER OF MEDAL AFTER PRESENTATION.—
11 Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of
12 Muhammad Ali under subsection (a), the gold medal shall
13 be given to his wife, Lonnie Ali.

14 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

15 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
16 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 at
17 a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including
18 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead ex-
19 penses.

20 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

24 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
25 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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