

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4384

To authorize the President to award gold medals on behalf of the Congress to the family of Andrew Jackson Higgins and the wartime employees of Higgins Industries, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation and to the Allied victory in World War II.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2000

Mr. JEFFERSON (for himself, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. BAKER, Mr. JOHN, Mr. COOKSEY, and Mr. VITTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to award gold medals on behalf of the Congress to the family of Andrew Jackson Higgins and the wartime employees of Higgins Industries, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation and to the Allied victory in World War II.

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        The Congress finds the following:

5            (1) Andrew Jackson Higgins designed, engi-  
6        neered, and produced high speed boats and various  
7        types of amphibious military landing craft, later to

1       become known as “Higgins boats”, which were used  
2       by Allied forces during World War II.

3               (2) Higgins boats, constructed of wood and  
4       steel, transported fully-armed troops, light tanks,  
5       field artillery, and other mechanized equipment es-  
6       sential to Allied amphibious operations, including  
7       the decisive D-Day attack at Normandy, France.

8               (3) Andrew Jackson Higgins also designed, en-  
9       gineered, and constructed four major assembly line  
10      plants in New Orleans for mass production of Hig-  
11      gins landing craft and other vessels vital to the Al-  
12      lied forces’ conduct of World War II.

13              (4) Andrew Jackson Higgins’ foresight, in pur-  
14      chasing the materials needed to produce a large  
15      number of boats even before the United States be-  
16      came embroiled in World War II, contributed the  
17      Nation’s readiness when it finally did enter the war.

18              (5) Andrew Jackson Higgins instituted a pro-  
19      gressive social policy in his Higgins Industries fac-  
20      tories by employing a fully-integrated assembly line  
21      work force of more than 20,000 black and white  
22      men and women during World War II, with equal  
23      pay for equal work, decades before legal require-  
24      ments for integration and racial and gender equality  
25      were instituted.

1           (6) Prior to November 1940, when Higgins In-  
2           dustries began producing Higgins boats for the  
3           United States Government, the Navy had only 18  
4           landing craft in its fleet; by the conclusion of the  
5           war, Higgins Industries had produced 20,094 land-  
6           ing craft of all types and had trained more than  
7           30,000 Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel in  
8           their use.

9           (7) In 1964, former President Dwight D. Ei-  
10          senhower said of Andrew Jackson Higgins, “He is  
11          the man who won the war for us. If Higgins had not  
12          developed and produced those landing craft, we  
13          never could have gone in over an open beach. We  
14          would have had to change the entire strategy of the  
15          war.”

16          (8) Together, Andrew Jackson Higgins and the  
17          employees of Higgins Industries provided a decisive  
18          and essential contribution to the United States and  
19          Allied victory in World War II while practicing racial  
20          and gender workplace equality far in advance of the  
21          norm for the time.

22 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.**

23          (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is  
24          authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress—

1           (1) a gold medal of appropriate design to the  
2 family of Andrew Jackson Higgins in recognition of  
3 his contributions to the Nation and to the Allied vic-  
4 tory in World War II;

5           (2) a gold medal identical to the medal referred  
6 to in paragraph (1) to the D-Day Museum in New  
7 Orleans, Louisiana, for public display; and

8           (3) a gold medal of appropriate design to the  
9 D-Day Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, in honor  
10 of the World War II employees of Higgins Industries  
11 and in recognition of their contributions to the Na-  
12 tion and to the Allied victory in World War II.

13       (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
14 presentations referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
15 of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the  
16 “Secretary”) shall strike gold medals with suitable em-  
17 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
18 Secretary.

19 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

20       Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-  
21 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
22 bronze of the gold medals struck under section 2 at a price  
23 sufficient to cover the costs of the duplicate bronze medals  
24 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and  
25 overhead expenses) and the cost of the gold medals.

1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

2       The medals struck under this Act are national medals  
3 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

4 **SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

5       (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is hereby authorized to  
6 be charged against the United States Mint Public Enter-  
7 prise Fund an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to pay for  
8 the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

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

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