

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 986

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Walsh in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to American society in the fields of law enforcement and victims' rights.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 1999

Mr. BARCIA (for himself, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. REYES, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. NEY, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. KELLY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. PASTOR, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. TURNER, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. FOLEY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KUYKENDALL, and Mr. SANDLIN) 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 a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Walsh in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to American society in the fields of law enforcement and victims' rights.

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 that—

1           (1) John Walsh, host of Fox Television's  
2           "America's Most Wanted" television program, has  
3           dedicated his life to the pursuit and apprehension of  
4           felons and fugitives who have committed murder,  
5           rape, robbery, kidnapping, pedophilia, and other  
6           atrocious crimes against the citizens of the United  
7           States;

8           (2) in doing so, John Walsh has sacrificed his  
9           own personal safety and freedom for the good of all  
10          Americans;

11          (3) on July 27, 1981, Adam Walsh, the 6-year-  
12          old son of John Walsh, was abducted and brutally  
13          murdered;

14          (4) John Walsh and his family have never ob-  
15          tained closure for this heinous crime, because no  
16          person was ever charged with the crime and the  
17          prime suspect ultimately died in prison;

18          (5) after the death of his son, John Walsh be-  
19          came a tireless advocate for victims' rights;

20          (6) John Walsh has testified more than 35  
21          times before the Congress in support of legislation,  
22          and his efforts led to the passage in 1982 of the  
23          Missing Children Act and in 1984 of the Missing  
24          Children's Assistance Act, which established the Na-  
25          tional Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

1           (7) John Walsh has also lobbied for a constitu-  
2           tional amendment that would secure victims' rights;

3           (8) John Walsh, not ceasing his dedication to  
4           the safety and welfare of children with the enact-  
5           ment of new protective statutes, established a public  
6           information television program, "America's Most  
7           Wanted", to expose the criminal activity of various  
8           fugitives throughout the United States and abroad;

9           (9) four days after the debut of the program,  
10          on February 11, 1988, the Federal Bureau of Inves-  
11          tigation announced the capture in New York City of  
12          one of its 10 Most Wanted fugitives, David James  
13          Roberts, as a direct result of tips from viewers of  
14          the program;

15          (10) on May 29, 1988, FBI Director William  
16          Sessions appeared on "America's Most Wanted" to  
17          announce the addition of three new fugitives to the  
18          FBI's 10 Most Wanted list, one of whom was cap-  
19          tured within 24 hours after the announcement;

20          (11) on July 17, 1988, Robert Wayne Fisher,  
21          a fugitive wanted for the murder of his wife, was  
22          captured just 33 minutes after John Walsh profiled  
23          him on "America's Most Wanted";

1           (12) on May 7, 1989, John Walsh facilitated  
2           the capture of a New Jersey mass murderer who  
3           had been at large for nearly 18 years;

4           (13) John Walsh profiled 1,455 fugitives from  
5           justice on “America’s Most Wanted” as of December  
6           3, 1998, 914 of whom have been captured, including  
7           538 who were captured as a direct result of being  
8           profiled;

9           (14) on May 10, 1990, John Walsh and “Amer-  
10          ica’s Most Wanted” for the first time helped recover  
11          a missing child, Nicole Ravesi, and aided in the ar-  
12          rest of her abductor, Kenneth Cole;

13          (15) in all, John Walsh has profiled 348 cases  
14          involving missing or kidnapped persons, 150 of  
15          whom have been reunited with their families;

16          (16) John Walsh has profiled 100 criminal sus-  
17          pects whose identities were unknown to law enforce-  
18          ment officials, and 24 of the suspects have been  
19          identified as a result of being profiled;

20          (17) at the request of law enforcement officials,  
21          John Walsh has also profiled 17 unidentified victims  
22          of foul play, and eight of the victims have been iden-  
23          tified as a result of being profiled;

24          (18) the outstanding contributions of John  
25          Walsh to crime victims and the law enforcement

1 community have come at no cost to the taxpayers of  
2 the United States; and

3 (19) John Walsh, through “America’s Most  
4 Wanted” and through other endeavors, continues to  
5 serve law enforcement officials and crime victims  
6 through his unfailing dedication to pursuing and  
7 capturing dangerous fugitives, protecting the safety  
8 of children, and bringing closure to victims of crime  
9 in the United States.

10 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

11 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is  
12 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold  
13 medal of appropriate design to John Walsh in recognition  
14 of his outstanding and enduring contributions to American  
15 society in the fields of law enforcement and victims’ rights.

16 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
17 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
18 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
19 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
20 Secretary.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—Effective  
22 February 1, 1999, there are authorized to be appropriated  
23 \$30,000 to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 (a) STRIKING AND SALE.—The Secretary of the  
3 Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the  
4 gold medal struck under section 2 under such regulations  
5 as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to  
6 cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use  
7 of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the  
8 gold medal.

9 (b) REIMBURSEMENT OF APPROPRIATION.—The ap-  
10 propriation used to carry out section 2 shall be reimbursed  
11 out of the proceeds of sales under subsection (a).

12 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

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