

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3512

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the Comanche Code Talkers of World War II in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2001

Ms. GRANGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the Comanche Code Talkers of World War II in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

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 “World War II Coman-  
5       che Code Talkers Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) On December 7, 1941, the Japanese Em-  
2           pire attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the Con-  
3           gress declared war the following day.

4           (2) The military code, developed by the United  
5           States for transmitting messages, had been deci-  
6           phered by the Axis powers, and United States mili-  
7           tary intelligence sought to develop a new means to  
8           counter the enemy.

9           (3) The United States Government called upon  
10          the Comanche Nation to support the military effort  
11          by recruiting and enlisting Comanche men to serve  
12          in the United States Army to develop a secret code  
13          based on the Comanche language.

14          (4) At the time, the Comanches were second-  
15          class citizens, and they were a people who were dis-  
16          couraged from using their own language.

17          (5) The Comanches of the 4th Signal Division  
18          became known as the “Comanche Code Talkers” and  
19          helped to develop a code using their language to  
20          communicate military messages during the D–Day  
21          invasion and in the European theater during World  
22          War II.

23          (6) To the enemy’s frustration, the code devel-  
24          oped by these Native American Indians proved to be

1 unbreakable and was used extensively throughout  
2 the European theater.

3 (7) The Comanche language, discouraged in the  
4 past, was instrumental in developing one of the most  
5 significant and successful military codes of World  
6 War II.

7 (8) The Comanche Code Talkers contributed  
8 greatly to the Allied war effort in Europe and were  
9 instrumental in winning the war in Europe. Their  
10 efforts saved countless lives.

11 (9) Only one of the Comanche Code Talkers of  
12 World War II remains alive today.

13 (10) The time has come for the United States  
14 Congress to honor the Comanche Code Talkers for  
15 their valor and their service to the Nation.

16 (11) The congressional gold medals authorized  
17 by this Act are the recognition and honor by the  
18 United States and its citizens of the Comanche Code  
19 Talkers who distinguished themselves in performing  
20 a unique, highly successful communications oper-  
21 ation that greatly assisted in saving countless lives  
22 and in hastening the end of World War II in Eu-  
23 rope.

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

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is  
3 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold  
4 medal of appropriate design to each of the following Co-  
5 manche Code Talkers of World War II, in recognition of  
6 their contributions to the Nation:

- 7 (1) Charles Chibitty.  
8 (2) Haddon Codynah.  
9 (3) Robert Holder.  
10 (4) Forrest Kassinovoid.  
11 (5) Willington Mihecoby.  
12 (6) Perry Noyebad.  
13 (7) Clifford Otitivo.  
14 (8) Simmons Parker.  
15 (9) Melvin Permansu.  
16 (10) Dick Red Elk.  
17 (11) Elgin Red Elk.  
18 (12) Larry Saupitty.  
19 (13) Morris Sunrise.  
20 (14) Willie Yackeschi.

21 (b) MEDALS AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY.—Medals  
22 authorized to be presented under subsection (a) may be  
23 awarded posthumously on behalf of, and presented to a  
24 surviving family member of, the recipient of the medal.

25 (c) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
26 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary

1 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
2 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
3 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
4 Secretary.

5 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

6 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-  
7 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
8 bronze of the gold medals struck under section 3 at a price  
9 sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals (includ-  
10 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead  
11 expenses) and the costs of the gold medal.

12 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

15 **SEC. 6. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

16 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be  
17 charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
18 Fund an amount not to exceed \$110,000 to pay for the  
19 cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

20 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
21 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be  
22 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
23 Fund.

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