

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3009

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Celia Cruz.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. BACA, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ORTIZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. REYES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. WELLER, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FROST, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Celia Cruz.

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 “Congressional Tribute  
5 to Celia Cruz Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) Celia de la Caridad Cruz Alonso was raised  
4 as one of 14 children in the Santa Suarez district  
5 of Havana, Cuba.

6 (2) In 1960, Cruz and members of her band  
7 fled Cuba for the United States to escape the op-  
8 pressive regime of Fidel Castro.

9 (3) Celia Cruz and Pedro Knight, her husband  
10 of 40 years, chose to make America their permanent  
11 home, where she became a naturalized American cit-  
12 izen.

13 (4) While best known for her work as an enter-  
14 tainer, Celia Cruz influenced the lives of millions of  
15 people as an ambassador of Latino culture and a  
16 powerful voice of freedom.

17 (5) Over a prolific 50-year career as an enter-  
18 tainer, Celia Cruz became known as the “Queen of  
19 Salsa”.

20 (6) She recorded over 50 albums, and her col-  
21 laborative efforts with other performers helped break  
22 down ethnic and cultural barriers.

23 (7) The musical talent of Celia Cruz earned her  
24 hundreds of awards worldwide, most notably a 1990  
25 Grammy Award and Billboard Magazine’s “Lifetime  
26 Achievement Award” in 1995.

1           (8) In 1994, Cruz was recognized by President  
2 Clinton with the National Endowment of the Arts  
3 Award.

4           (9) On July 17, 2003, “Celia Cruz”, as she was  
5 more commonly known, passed away at her Fort  
6 Lee, New Jersey, home after battling brain cancer.

7           (10) Celia Cruz was much more than just a  
8 singer to millions of fans worldwide, especially to  
9 Latinos in America, and her contributions to music,  
10 Latino culture, and American society make her most  
11 deserving of America’s highest civilian award, the  
12 Congressional Gold Medal.

13 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

14           (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
15 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
16 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
17 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-  
18 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-  
19 ration of Celia Cruz, in recognition of her enduring con-  
20 tributions to music, Latino culture, and American society.

21           (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
22 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
23 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-  
24 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,

1 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-  
2 retary.

3 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

10 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

11 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
12 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
13 51 of title 31, United States Code.

14 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
15 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
16 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
18 **SALE.**

19 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is  
20 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
21 Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be nec-  
22 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant  
23 to this Act.

24 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
25 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section

- 1 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
- 2 Enterprise Fund.

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