

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2850

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Fred McFeely Rogers, in recognition of his lasting contributions to the application of creativity and imagination in the early education of our Nation's children, and to his lasting example to the Nation and the world of what it means to be a good neighbor.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SPECTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Fred McFeely Rogers, in recognition of his lasting contributions to the application of creativity and imagination in the early education of our Nation's children, and to his lasting example to the Nation and the world of what it means to be a good neighbor.

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 Congress finds that—

1           (1) born in 1928 in Latrobe, Pennsylvania,  
2           Fred McFeely Rogers, was raised in an environment  
3           where education was highly valued, and which fos-  
4           tered an active imagination;

5           (2) Fred Rogers earned his bachelor’s degree in  
6           music composition at Rollins College in Winter Park,  
7           Florida in 1951;

8           (3) upon graduation, he was hired by NBC tele-  
9           vision in New York as an assistant producer for  
10          “The Voice of Firestone”, and later as floor director  
11          for “The Lucky Strike Hit Parade”, “The Kate  
12          Smith Hour”, and the “NBC Opera Theatre”;

13          (4) Fred Rogers later studied child development  
14          at the University of Pittsburgh, attended Pittsburgh  
15          Theological Seminary, and was ordained as a Pres-  
16          byterian minister;

17          (5) in 1953, Fred Rogers began production of  
18          the television program “The Children’s Corner”, one  
19          of his first efforts as a producer, which was a live,  
20          daily, hour-long variety show that incorporated his  
21          talents as a musician and puppeteer;

22          (6) in 1955, “The Children’s Corner” won the  
23          Sylvania Award for the best locally produced chil-  
24          dren’s program in the country;

1           (7) it was on this program that Fred Rogers  
2 developed and first introduced us to his puppet char-  
3 acters, such as King Friday XIII, Daniel Striped  
4 Tiger, X the Owl, Henrietta Pussycat, and Lady  
5 Elaine Fairchilde;

6           (8) Fred Rogers produced “Mister Rogers’  
7 Neighborhood”, and hosted the show on the Public  
8 Broadcasting Service (PBS) from 1968 until the air-  
9 ing of the final episode in 2001;

10           (9) it was through “Mister Rogers’ Neighbor-  
11 hood” that Fred Rogers invited both grownups and  
12 children alike to actively engage their imaginations,  
13 and through the use of stories, songs, and puppets,  
14 Fred Rogers infused laughter and life lessons into  
15 each episode;

16           (10) time spent in Mr. Rogers’ home taught  
17 children about being a good neighbor, sharing, and  
18 expressing thoughts and emotions;

19           (11) transported by the famous trolley to the  
20 “Land of Make Believe”, “Mister Rogers’ Neighbor-  
21 hood” allowed children to escape to a safe place that  
22 creatively encouraged them to use their imaginations  
23 and showed them the benefits of being a friendly  
24 neighbor;

1           (12) “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” was the  
2 longest-running program on PBS, and was created  
3 and filmed in Fred Rogers’ hometown of Pittsburgh,  
4 Pennsylvania;

5           (13) Fred Rogers’ caring, genuine spirit re-  
6 flected the values shared by the people of south-  
7 western Pennsylvania and by so many neighborhoods  
8 throughout the country;

9           (14) “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” continues  
10 to air as a nurturing, educational program for chil-  
11 dren, emphasizing the value of every individual and  
12 helping children understand how they fit into their  
13 families, communities, and country;

14           (15) each episode of “Mister Rogers’ Neighbor-  
15 hood” was carefully crafted by Fred Rogers to con-  
16 vey wholesome, uplifting messages for the children  
17 who watched;

18           (16) Fred Rogers was appointed Chairman of  
19 the Forum on Mass Media and Child Development  
20 of the White House Conference on Youth in 1968;

21           (17) winning 4 Emmy Awards, “Lifetime  
22 Achievement” Awards from the National Academy of  
23 Television Arts and Sciences and the TV Critics As-  
24 sociation, and 2 George Foster Peabody Awards,  
25 Fred Rogers won every major award in television for

1 which he was eligible, and was inducted into the Tel-  
2 evision Hall of Fame in 1999;

3 (18) President George W. Bush awarded Fred  
4 Rogers the Presidential Medal of Honor in 2002,  
5 and throughout his lifetime, Fred Rogers was pre-  
6 sented with over 40 honorary degrees from colleges  
7 and universities; and

8 (19) in a country where children face neglect  
9 and may live without the benefit of loving parents,  
10 Fred McFeely Rogers succeeded, through his simple  
11 television program, in connecting with children on  
12 an intellectual and emotional level, while teaching  
13 them to value themselves and others.

14 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is  
16 authorized, on behalf of the Congress, to posthumously  
17 award a gold medal of appropriate design to Fred McFeely  
18 Rogers.

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

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

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

8 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

11 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

12       (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is  
13 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
14 Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000,  
15 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

16       (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
17 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be  
18 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
19 Fund.

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