

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1365

To award a congressional gold medal on behalf of Cesar E. Chavez in recognition of his service to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2005

Mr. BACA (for himself, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. REYES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. LEE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATSON, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. CASE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FARR, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KIND, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. WEINER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. CARSON, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SNYDER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. McCARThY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WYNN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal on behalf of Cesar E. Chavez in recognition of his service 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 “Cesar E. Chavez Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Cesar E. Chavez was born March 31, 1927,
9 on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, and died on
10 April 23, 1993.

11 (2) Numerous holidays, schools, parks, libraries,
12 and other structures and events have been named
13 after Cesar E. Chavez, in the United States and
14 internationally, with many more planned.

15 (3) Cesar E. Chavez was a recipient of the
16 Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Prize during his life-
17 time and was awarded the Presidential Medal of
18 Freedom on August 8, 1994.

19 (4) Cesar E. Chavez was the grandson of a
20 Mexican immigrant and settler and grew up working
21 with migrant farm workers, picking grapes, melons,
22 beans, and other crops at low wages and for long

1 hours, during which time he developed a strong work
2 ethic and respect for the farm workers his father
3 called “the children of God”.

4 (5) At the age of 18, Cesar E. Chavez entered
5 the United States Navy and served his country with
6 distinction for 2 years.

7 (6) As early as 1949, Cesar E. Chavez com-
8 mitted himself to organizing farm workers to cam-
9 paign for safe and fair working conditions, reason-
10 able wages, decent housing, and the outlawing of
11 child labor.

12 (7) In 1962, Cesar E. Chavez founded the Na-
13 tional Farm Workers Association, predecessor of the
14 United Farm Workers of America, which brought
15 hope to farm workers that they might one day real-
16 ize the basic protections and workers’ rights to
17 which all Americans aspire.

18 (8) Through his commitment to nonviolence,
19 Cesar E. Chavez brought dignity and respect to the
20 farm workers who organized themselves, and became
21 an inspiration and a resource to other Americans
22 and people engaged in human rights struggles
23 throughout the world.

24 (9) Cesar E. Chavez’s fasts and strikes gained
25 national attention and made people aware of the

1 struggle of farm workers for better pay and safer
2 working conditions.

3 (10) Cesar E. Chavez was an advocate for non-
4 violence at a time when violence penetrated every
5 level of our society; he used boycotts, pickets,
6 strikes, and fasts to achieve his goals and went to
7 jail for refusing to stop his boycott against lettuce
8 growers.

9 (11) Despite the killings and beatings of many
10 workers, Chavez never wavered in his commitment to
11 nonviolence.

12 (12) Cesar E. Chavez and his family also dedi-
13 cated themselves to the education of farm workers'
14 children through migrant schools, and many of these
15 children graduated and worked as teachers, doctors,
16 or nurses or in other professional occupations.

17 (13) The legacy of Cesar E. Chavez includes
18 healthy working conditions that yield
19 uncontaminated food for America's tables.

20 (14) Cesar E. Chavez's influence extends far
21 beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for those
22 working to better human rights through his example
23 of organizing voter registration drives in urban and
24 farm areas, initiating complaints against mistreat-
25 ment by police and welfare officials, and empowering

1 workers to seek advancement in education and poli-
2 tics.

3 (15) Cesar E. Chavez lived alongside his
4 campesino brothers and sisters in humble sur-
5 roundings.

6 (16) Upon his death in 1993, Cesar E. Chavez
7 was laid to rest where he lived and worked for 23
8 years on the grounds of the headquarters of the
9 United Farm Workers of America, known as
10 Nuestra Señora de La Paz (Our Lady of Peace), lo-
11 cated in the Tehachapi Mountains at Keene, Cali-
12 fornia.

13 (17) With faith, discipline, soft-spoken humility,
14 and amazing inner strength, Cesar E. Chavez led a
15 very courageous life.

16 (18) Cesar E. Chavez' words will always ring
17 true in our country: Si se puede! Yes, we can!

18 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

19 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
20 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
21 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
22 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
23 medal of appropriate design to the next of kin or other
24 personal representative of Cesar E. Chavez in recognition
25 of his service to the Nation.

1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
2 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
3 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
4 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
5 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
6 Secretary.

7 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

8 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
9 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3
10 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe,
11 and at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, includ-
12 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead
13 expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

14 **SEC. 5. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

15 The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national
16 medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United
17 States Code.

18 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

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

24 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
25 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be

1 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
2 Fund.

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