

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1375

To award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2005

Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HALL, Mr. HOYER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. POE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. THORNBERRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis
DeBakey, M.D.

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 makes the following findings:

5 (1) Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D. was born on
6 September 7, 1908 in Lake Charles, Louisiana, to
7 Shaker and Raheeja DeBakey.

1 (2) Dr. DeBakey, at the age of 23 and still a
2 medical student, reported a major invention, a roller
3 pump for blood transfusions, which later became a
4 major component of the heart-lung machine used in
5 the first successful open-heart operation.

6 (3) Even though Dr. DeBakey had already
7 achieved a national reputation as an authority on
8 vascular disease and had a promising career as a
9 surgeon and teacher, he volunteered for military
10 service during World War II, joining the Surgeon
11 General's staff and rising to the rank of Colonel and
12 Chief of the Surgical Consultants Division.

13 (4) As a result of this first-hand knowledge of
14 military service, Dr. DeBakey made numerous rec-
15 ommendations for the proper staged management of
16 war wounds, which led to the development of mobile
17 army surgical hospitals or MASH units and earned
18 Dr. DeBakey the Legion of Merit in 1945.

19 (5) After the war, Dr. DeBakey proposed the
20 systematic medical follow-up of veterans and rec-
21 ommended the creation of specialized medical cen-
22 ters in different areas of the United States to treat
23 wounded military personnel returning from war and
24 from this recommendation evolved the Veterans Af-
25 fairs Medical Center System and the establishment

1 of the Commission on Veterans Medical Problems of
2 the National Research Council.

3 (6) In 1948, Dr. DeBakey joined the Baylor
4 University College of Medicine, where he developed
5 the first surgical residency program in the City of
6 Houston, and today, guided by Dr. DeBakey's vi-
7 sion, the College is one of the most respected health
8 science centers in the Nation.

9 (7) In 1953, Dr. DeBakey performed the first
10 successful procedures to treat patients who suffered
11 aneurysms leading to severe strokes, and he later de-
12 veloped a series of innovative surgical techniques for
13 the treatment of aneurysms enabling thousands of
14 lives to be saved in the years ahead.

15 (8) In 1964, Dr. DeBakey triggered the most
16 explosive era in modern cardiac surgery, when he
17 performed the first successful coronary bypass, once
18 again paving the way for surgeons world-wide to
19 offer hope to thousands of patients who might other-
20 wise succumb to heart disease.

21 (9) Two years later, Dr. DeBakey made med-
22 ical history again, when he was the first to success-
23 fully use a partial artificial heart to solve the prob-
24 lems of a patient who could not be weaned from a
25 heart-lung machine following open-heart surgery.

1 (10) In 1968, Dr. DeBakey supervised the first
2 successful multi-organ transplant, in which a heart,
3 both kidneys, and lung were transplanted from a
4 single donor into 4 separate recipients.

5 (11) In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson
6 appointed Dr. DeBakey to the position of Chairman
7 of the President’s Commission on Heart Disease,
8 Cancer and Stroke, leading to the creation of Re-
9 gional Medical Programs established “to encourage
10 and assist in the establishment of regional coopera-
11 tive arrangements among medical schools, research
12 institutions, and hospitals, for research and train-
13 ing.”.

14 (12) In the mid-1960’s, Dr. DeBakey pioneered
15 the field of telemedicine with the first demonstration
16 of open-heart surgery to be transmitted overseas by
17 satellite.

18 (13) In 1969, Dr. DeBakey was elected the
19 first President of Baylor College of Medicine.

20 (14) In 1969, President Lyndon B. Johnson be-
21 stowed on Dr. DeBakey the Presidential Medal of
22 Freedom with Distinction, and in 1985, President
23 Ronald Reagan conferred on him the National Medal
24 of Science.

1 (15) Working with NASA engineers, he refined
2 existing technology to create the DeBakey Ventric-
3 ular Assist Device, one-tenth the size of current
4 versions, which may eliminate the need for heart
5 transplantation in some patients.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

7 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
8 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
9 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
10 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
11 medal of appropriate design, to Michael Ellis DeBakey,
12 M.D., in recognition of his many outstanding contribu-
13 tions to the Nation.

14 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
15 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
16 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
17 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
18 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
19 retary.

20 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

21 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
22 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
23 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
24 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,

1 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
2 and the cost of the gold medal.

3 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
5 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
6 51 of title 31, United States Code.

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
8 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
9 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
11 **SALE.**

12 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
13 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
14 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
15 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
16 to this Act.

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

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