

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1174

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Robert M. La Follette, Sr., in recognition of his important contributions to the Progressive movement, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2005

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

A BILL

To authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Robert M. La Follette, Sr., in recognition of his important contributions to the Progressive movement, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States.

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 makes the following findings:

5 (1) Robert M. La Follette, Sr., better known as
6 “Fighting Bob” La Follette, was born 150 years
7 ago, on June 14, 1855, in Primrose, Wisconsin.

1 (2) Fighting Bob was elected to 3 terms in the
2 United States House of Representatives, 3 terms as
3 Governor of Wisconsin, and 4 terms as a United
4 States Senator.

5 (3) Fighting Bob founded the Progressive wing
6 of the Republican Party.

7 (4) Fighting Bob was a lifelong supporter of
8 civil rights and women’s suffrage, earning respect
9 and support from such distinguished Americans as
10 Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman Upton.

11 (5) Fighting Bob helped to make the “Wis-
12 consin Idea” a reality at the Federal and State level,
13 instituting election reforms, environmental conserva-
14 tion, railroad rate regulation, increased education
15 funding, and business regulation.

16 (6) Fighting Bob was a principal advocate for
17 the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution of
18 the United States, which calls for the election of
19 United States Senators by popular vote.

20 (7) Fighting Bob delivered an historic speech,
21 “Free Speech in Wartime”, opposing the public per-
22 secution of those who sought to hold their Govern-
23 ment accountable.

24 (8) Fighting Bob played a key role in exposing
25 the corruption during the Teapot Dome Scandal.

1 (9) Fighting Bob and his wife, Belle Case La
2 Follette, founded La Follette’s Weekly, now renamed
3 The Progressive, a monthly magazine for the Pro-
4 gressive community.

5 (10) Fighting Bob ran for the presidency on
6 the Progressive ticket in 1924, winning more than
7 17 percent of the popular vote.

8 (11) The Library of Congress recognized Fight-
9 ing Bob in 1985 by naming the Congressional Re-
10 search Service reading room in the Madison Build-
11 ing in honor of both Robert M. La Follette, Sr., and
12 his son, Robert M. La Follette, Jr., for their shared
13 commitment to the development of a legislative re-
14 search service to support the United States Con-
15 gress.

16 (12) Fighting Bob was honored in 1929 with 1
17 of 2 statues representing the State of Wisconsin in
18 National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol.

19 (13) Fighting Bob was chosen as 1 of “Five
20 Outstanding Senators” by the Special Committee on
21 the Senate Reception Room in 1957.

22 (14) A portrait of Fighting Bob was unveiled in
23 the Senate Reception Room in March 1959.

24 (15) Fighting Bob was revered by his sup-
25 porters for his unwavering support of his ideals, and

1 for his tenacious pursuit of a more just and account-
2 able Government.

3 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

4 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
5 authorized, on behalf of the Congress, to posthumously
6 award a gold medal of appropriate design to Robert M.
7 La Follette, Sr., in recognition of his important contribu-
8 tions to the Progressive movement, the State of Wisconsin,
9 and the United States.

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

16 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

17 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
18 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
19 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 at
20 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
21 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
22 and the cost of the gold medal.

23 **SEC. 4. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
3 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
4 Public Enterprise Fund such sum as may be appropriate
5 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized under this
6 Act.

7 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
8 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
9 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
10 Fund.

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