

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 682

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## AN ACT

To award a congressional gold medal to Edward William Brooke III in recognition of his unprecedented and enduring service to our 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 “Edward William  
5 Brooke III Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) Edward William Brooke III was the first  
4 African American elected by popular vote to the  
5 United States Senate and served with distinction for  
6 2 terms from January 3, 1967, to January 3, 1979.

7 (2) In 1960, Senator Brooke began his public  
8 career when Governor John Volpe appointed him  
9 chairman of the Boston Finance Commission, where  
10 the young lawyer established an outstanding record  
11 of confronting and eliminating graft and corruption  
12 and proposed groundbreaking legislation for con-  
13 sumer protection and against housing discrimination  
14 and air pollution.

15 (3) At a time when few African Americans held  
16 State or Federal office, Senator Brooke became an  
17 exceptional pioneer, beginning in 1962, when he  
18 made national and State history by being elected At-  
19 torney General of Massachusetts, the first African  
20 American in the Nation to serve as a State Attorney  
21 General, the second highest office in the State, and  
22 the only Republican to win statewide in the election  
23 that year, at a time when there were fewer than  
24 1,000 African American officials in our nation.

25 (4) He won office as a Republican in a state  
26 that was strongly Democratic.

1           (5) As Massachusetts Attorney General, Sen-  
2           ator Brooke became known for his fearless and hon-  
3           est execution of the laws of his State and for his vig-  
4           orous prosecution of organized crime.

5           (6) The pioneering accomplishments of Edward  
6           William Brooke III in public service were achieved  
7           although he was raised in Washington, DC at a time  
8           when the Nation's capital was a city where schools,  
9           public accommodations, and other institutions were  
10          segregated, and when the District of Columbia did  
11          not have its own self-governing institutions or elect-  
12          ed officials.

13          (7) Senator Brooke graduated from Paul Lau-  
14          rence Dunbar High School and went on to graduate  
15          from Howard University in 1941.

16          (8) Senator Brooke's enduring advocacy for  
17          self-government and congressional voting rights for  
18          the citizens of Washington, DC has roots in his life  
19          and personal experience as a native Washingtonian.

20          (9) Senator Brooke served for 5 years in the  
21          United States Army in the segregated 366th Infan-  
22          try Regiment during World War II in the European  
23          theater of operations, attaining the rank of captain  
24          and receiving a Bronze Star Medal for "heroic or

1 meritorious achievement or service” and the Distin-  
2 guished Service Award.

3 (10) After the war, Senator Brooke attended  
4 Boston University School of Law, where he served  
5 as editor of the school’s Law Review, graduating  
6 with an LL.B. in 1948 and an LL.M. in 1949, and  
7 made Massachusetts his home.

8 (11) During his career in Congress, Senator  
9 Brooke was a leader on some of the most critical  
10 issues of his time, including the war in Vietnam, the  
11 struggle for civil rights, the shameful system of  
12 apartheid in South Africa, the Cold War, and United  
13 States’ relations with the People’s Republic of  
14 China.

15 (12) President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed  
16 Senator Brooke to the President’s Commission on  
17 Civil Disorders in 1967, where his work on discrimi-  
18 nation in housing would serve as the basis for the  
19 1968 Civil Rights Act.

20 (13) Senator Brooke continued to champion  
21 open housing when he left the Senate and became  
22 the head of the National Low-Income Housing Coa-  
23 lition.

24 (14) Senator Brooke has been recognized with  
25 many high honors, among them the Presidential

1 Medal of Freedom in 2004, an honor that recognizes  
2 “an especially meritorious contribution to the secu-  
3 rity or national interests of the United States, world  
4 peace, cultural or other significant public or private  
5 endeavors”; the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit  
6 from the Government of Italy; a State courthouse  
7 dedicated in his honor by the Commonwealth of  
8 Massachusetts, making him the first African Amer-  
9 ican to have a State courthouse named in his honor;  
10 the NAACP Spingarn Medal; and the Charles Evans  
11 Hughes award from the National Conference of  
12 Christians and Jews.

13 (15) Senator Brooke’s biography, *Bridging The*  
14 *Divide: My Life*, was published in 2006, and he is  
15 the author of *The Challenge of Change: Crisis in*  
16 *Our Two-Party System*, published in 1966.

17 (16) Senator Brooke became a racial pioneer,  
18 but race was never at the center of his political cam-  
19 paigns.

20 (17) He demonstrated to all that with commit-  
21 ment, determination, and strength of character, even  
22 the barriers once thought insurmountable can be  
23 overcome.

1           (18) He has devoted his life to the service of  
2 others, and made enormous contributions to our so-  
3 ciety today.

4           (19) The life and accomplishments of Senator  
5 Brooke is inspiring proof, as he says, that “people  
6 can be elected on the basis of their qualifications  
7 and not their race”.

8 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

9           (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
10 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
11 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
12 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
13 medal of appropriate design to Edward William Brooke  
14 III in recognition of his unprecedented and enduring serv-  
15 ice to our Nation.

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

22 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

23           The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
24 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
25 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at

1 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
2 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
3 and the cost of the gold medal.

4 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

5 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
6 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
7 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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

11 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
12 **SALE.**

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

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

- 1 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
- 2 Enterprise Fund.

Passed the Senate March 29, 2007.

Attest:

*Secretary.*





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