

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 682

To award a congressional gold medal to Edward William Brooke III in recognition of his unprecedented and enduring service to our Nation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REED, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BAYH, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

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
 20 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
 21 Enterprise Fund.

