

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4745

To award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the recipients of assistance under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (commonly referred to as the "GI Bill of Rights") in recognition of the great contributions such recipients made to the Nation in both their military and civilian service and the contributions of Harry W. Colmery in initiating actions which led to the enactment of that Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. JONES, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BARROW, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the recipients of assistance under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (commonly referred to as the "GI Bill of Rights") in recognition of the great contributions such recipients made to the Nation in both their military and civilian service and the contributions of Harry W. Colmery in initiating actions which led to the enactment of that Act, and for other purposes.

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 “Achievements of the
5 GI Bill Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The life of Harry W. Colmery of Topeka,
9 Kansas, was marked by exemplary service to his
10 country.

11 (2) Harry Colmery served the United States
12 with distinction during World War I as a first lieu-
13 tenant and pilot instructor in the Army Air Corps.

14 (3) Upon his return, Harry Colmery remained
15 involved in issues important to the United States
16 Armed Forces and veterans community through the
17 American Legion, serving as the national com-
18 mander of the American Legion from 1936 to 1937.

19 (4) In 1943, the United States faced an un-
20 precedented number of servicemen and women re-
21 turning from World War II to civilian life, more
22 than 15,000,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Ma-
23 rines.

24 (5) Harry Colmery, and others with the Amer-
25 ican Legion, helped spearhead efforts to ensure that

1 government programs were in place to ensure that
2 these members of the United States Armed Forces
3 would face an easy transition back to civilian life.

4 (6) During a December 1943 emergency meet-
5 ing of American Legion leadership to address these
6 concerns at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington,
7 DC, Harry Colmery crafted the initial draft of the
8 Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, also known
9 as the GI Bill of Rights.

10 (7) This pioneering piece of legislation sought
11 to help GIs buy homes, start businesses, and attend
12 college or technical school upon their return from
13 World War II.

14 (8) Due to Harry Colmery’s advocacy, Presi-
15 dent Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill of
16 Rights into law on June 22, 1944.

17 (9) In the decade following World War II, more
18 than 2,000,000 eligible men and women went to col-
19 lege using the GI Bill of Rights, and another
20 5,000,000 received other schooling or job training
21 under the GI Bill.

22 (10) From 1944 to 1952, the Veterans Admin-
23 istration backed nearly 2,400,000 home loans for
24 World War II veterans due to the GI Bill of Rights.

1 (11) The GI Bill of Rights has been heralded
2 as one of the most significant pieces of legislation
3 ever produced by the Federal Government, one that
4 has impacted the United States socially, economi-
5 cally, and politically.

6 **SEC. 3. 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 Congress, of a single
11 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the recipients
12 of assistance under the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of
13 1944 (commonly referred to as the “GI Bill of Rights”),
14 in recognition of the great contributions such recipients
15 made to the Nation in both their military and civilian serv-
16 ice and the contributions of Harry W. Colmery in initi-
17 ating actions which led to the enactment of that Act.

18 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the presen-
20 tation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of
21 the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
22 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
23 blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by
24 the Secretary.

1 (2) **OBVERSE AND REVERSE.**—The obverse of
2 the gold medal shall bear the image of Harry W.
3 Colmery and the reverse shall bear a design emblem-
4 atic of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944
5 and the achievements of the recipients of assistance
6 under such Act.

7 (c) **SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.**—

8 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Following the award of the
9 gold medal in honor of the recipients of assistance
10 under the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944
11 under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given
12 to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be avail-
13 able for display as appropriate and made available
14 for research.

15 (2) **SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**—It is the sense
16 of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution
17 should make the gold medal received under para-
18 graph (1) available for display elsewhere, particu-
19 larly at other appropriate locations selected by the
20 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of De-
21 fense, or the Secretary of Education.

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

23 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
24 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
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 under
6 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
7 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 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
21 Enterprise Fund.

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