

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4766

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to American military personnel who fought in defense of Bataan, Corregidor, Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippine Archipelago between December 7, 1941, and May 10, 1942, and who died or were imprisoned by the Japanese military in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Wake Island, and Guam from April 9, 1942, until September 2, 1945, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2016

Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia) 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, collectively, to American military personnel who fought in defense of Bataan, Corregidor, Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippine Archipelago between December 7, 1941, and May 10, 1942, and who died or were imprisoned by the Japanese military in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Wake Island, and Guam from April 9, 1942, until September 2, 1945, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country.

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) Guam was captured by Japan on December
6 10, 1941, three days after the attack on Pearl Har-
7 bor and remained in the hands of the Japanese until
8 June 1944. Those prisoners who remained on Guam
9 suffered atrocities at the hands of the Japanese or
10 were transported on “Hell Ships” to Japanese POW
11 camps.

12 (2) In January 1942 the Japanese took ap-
13 proximately 1,600 prisoners on Wake Island. Ap-
14 proximately 450 military and 1,150 civilians were
15 then transported to POW camps in China and
16 Japan.

17 (3) On April 9, 1942, Major General Edward
18 King surrendered the soldiers from the United
19 States and the Philippines into enemy hands.

20 (4) Over the next week, the soldiers from the
21 United States and the Philippines were taken pris-
22 oner and forced to march 65 miles without any food,
23 water, or medical care in what came to be known as
24 the Bataan Death March.

1 (5) On May 6, 1942, Corregidor fell after a
2 weeklong siege and its defenders were surrendered.

3 (6) On May 10, 1942, American forces under
4 the command of Major General William F. Sharp
5 surrendered after fighting the Japanese from April
6 29, 1942, to May 9, 1942, on the island of
7 Mindanao in the southernmost portion of the Phil-
8 ippine Archipelago. It was on this date, May 10,
9 1942, that General Wainwright, as Supreme Allied
10 Commander, surrendered all Allied Forces in the
11 Philippine Archipelago.

12 (7) During this forced march, thousands of sol-
13 diers died, either from starvation, lack of medical
14 care, sheer exhaustion, or abuse by their captors.

15 (8) Within the first 40 days at Camp
16 O'Donnell, 1,600 more prisoners from the United
17 States died.

18 (9) The conditions at the camp were sub-
19 standard, leading to increased disease and malnutri-
20 tion among the prisoners.

21 (10) In May 1942 the Japanese began transfer-
22 ring POWs by sea. Prisoners were crammed into
23 cargo holds with little air, food or water for journeys
24 that would last for weeks on what were to be known
25 as the “Hell Ships”. Many died due to asphyxia,

1 starvation, or dysentery. Some prisoners became de-
2 lirious and unresponsive in an environment of heat,
3 humidity and lack of oxygen, food, and water. More
4 than 3,300 prisoners died at sea while being trans-
5 ported by these ships.

6 (11) On June 6, 1942, the prisoners from the
7 United States were transferred to Cabanatuan,
8 north of Camp O'Donnell.

9 (12) The campus of the University of Santo
10 Tomas was converted to the Santo Tomas Intern-
11 ment Camp by the Japanese during their occupation
12 of the Philippines. Santo Tomas became the initial
13 internment camp for both the army and navy
14 nurses, with the army and navy nurses remaining
15 there until their liberation.

16 (13) The prisoners who remained in the camps
17 suffered from continued mistreatment, malnutrition,
18 lack of medical care, and horrific conditions.

19 (14) The prisoners who remained in these
20 camps were liberated in 1945.

21 (15) Over the subsequent decades, these pris-
22 oners formed support groups, were honored in local
23 and State memorials, and told their story to all peo-
24 ple of the United States.

1 (16) The people of the United States are for-
2 ever indebted to these men and women for—

3 (A) the courage they demonstrated during
4 the first 4 months of World War II in fighting
5 against enemy soldiers; and

6 (B) the perseverance they demonstrated
7 during years of capture, imprisonment, and
8 atrocious conditions, while maintaining dignity,
9 honor, patriotism, and loyalty.

10 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

11 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
12 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
13 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
14 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal
15 of appropriate design to American military personnel who
16 fought in defense of Bataan, Corregidor, Guam, Wake Is-
17 land, and the Philippine Archipelago between December
18 7, 1941, and May 10, 1942, and who died or were impris-
19 oned by the Japanese military in the Philippines, Japan,
20 Korea, Manchuria, Wake Island, and Guam from April 9,
21 1942, until September 2, 1945, in recognition of their per-
22 sonal sacrifice and service to their country.

23 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
24 award under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury
25 (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall

1 strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
2 inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

3 (c) TRANSFER AND DISPLAY OF MEDALS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
5 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
6 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
7 it shall be displayed as appropriate and made avail-
8 able for research.

9 (2) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense
10 of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution
11 should make the gold medal received under para-
12 graph (1) available for display at other locations,
13 particularly such locations as are associated with the
14 American military prisoners described under sub-
15 section (a).

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

17 (a) STRIKING OF DUPLICATES.—Under such regula-
18 tions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may
19 strike duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under
20 section 2.

21 (b) SELLING OF DUPLICATES.—The Secretary may
22 sell such duplicates under subsection (a) at a price suffi-
23 cient to cover the costs of such duplicates, including labor,
24 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

2 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are National med-
3 als for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States
4 Code.

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