

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 608

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to the 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., on Janu-
6 ary 17, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, Muhammad
7 Ali was the first child of Cassius, Sr., and Odessa
8 Clay.

9 (2) Muhammad Ali is one of the most cele-
10 brated athletes of the 20th century. He has pro-

1 duced some of America’s greatest sports memories,
2 from winning a gold medal at the 1960 Summer
3 Olympics to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996
4 Summer Olympics.

5 (3) After an impressive amateur career, during
6 which he recorded 131 wins and only 7 losses and
7 won 2 National AAU light heavyweight titles, Mu-
8 hammad Ali became the first professional boxer in
9 history to capture the heavyweight title 3 separate
10 times.

11 (4) Muhammad Ali defeated every challenger he
12 faced in the ring. But, on April 28, 1967, he was
13 stripped of his boxing title and barred from com-
14 peting for being a conscientious objector to the war
15 in Vietnam on religious and moral grounds. How-
16 ever, following a unanimous United States Supreme
17 Court decision in 1971, Muhammad Ali’s conscien-
18 tious objector status was confirmed, his boxing li-
19 cense was reinstated, and he was cleared of any
20 wrongdoing.

21 (5) As an African-American and a Muslim liv-
22 ing in an era that continued to question his civil
23 rights, Muhammad Ali battled issues of race and re-
24 ligion, and has received recognition as one of the

1 champions of the Civil Rights Movement in the
2 United States.

3 (6) Muhammad Ali is the recipient of many
4 awards for his sporting prowess and his support of
5 racial harmony, including the Dr. Martin Luther
6 King Memorial Award, the Spirit of America Award,
7 the Amnesty International Lifetime Achievement
8 Award, the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, the Es-
9 sence Living Legend Award, the Rainbow Coalition
10 Lifetime Achievement Award, the XNBA Human
11 Spirit Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and
12 the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

13 (7) Muhammad Ali has been acknowledged by
14 many organizations for his achievements both inside
15 and outside the boxing ring, including being crowned
16 “Sportsman of the Century” by Sports Illustrated,
17 being named “Athlete of the Century” by GQ maga-
18 zine, being named “Sports Personality of the Cen-
19 tury” by the British Broadcasting Corporation,
20 being named “Kentucky Athlete of the Century” by
21 the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, being named
22 “Kentuckian of the Century” by the State of Ken-
23 tucky, being named “Louisvillian of the Century” by
24 the Advertising Club of Louisville, being named
25 “Boxer of the Century” by the World Sports Awards

1 of the Century, being recognized by the Inter-
2 national Boxing Hall of Fame, and receiving hon-
3 orary doctorate degrees from Muhlenberg College
4 and Western Kentucky University, as well as an
5 honorary doctorate of humanities at Princeton Uni-
6 versity's 260th graduation ceremony.

7 (8) Muhammad Ali received the prestigious
8 "Otto Hahn Peace Medal in Gold" from the United
9 Nations Association of Germany for his work with
10 the United Nations and the Civil Rights Movement
11 in the United States.

12 (9) Muhammad Ali was selected by the Cali-
13 fornia Bicentennial Foundation for the U.S. Con-
14 stitution to personify the vitality of the Bill of
15 Rights in various high-profile activities.

16 (10) Despite having been diagnosed with Par-
17 kinson's Syndrome in the early 1980s, Muhammad
18 Ali has dedicated his life to the cause of universal
19 human rights and freedom. His commitment to
20 equal justice and peace has touched the lives of hun-
21 dreds of thousands of people worldwide.

22 (11) President Jimmy Carter asked Muhammad
23 Ali to meet with African leaders in Tanzania, Kenya,
24 Nigeria, Liberia, and Senegal as part of President

1 Carter’s diplomatic efforts on behalf of human rights
2 in the 1980s.

3 (12) In 1990, Muhammad Ali traveled to the
4 Middle East to seek the release of American and
5 British hostages that were being held as human
6 shields in the first Gulf War. As a result of his
7 intervention, 15 United States hostages were freed
8 on December 2nd of that year.

9 (13) In 1998, Muhammad Ali was chosen as
10 the “U.N. Messenger of Peace”.

11 (14) Several Presidents of the United States
12 have recognized Muhammad Ali, including President
13 George W. Bush who, on November 17, 2002, called
14 him “a man of peace” and stated that “across the
15 world, billions of people know Muhammad Ali as a
16 brave, compassionate, and charming man, and the
17 American people are proud to call Muhammad Ali
18 one of our own,” President Bill Clinton who stated
19 that Muhammad Ali “captured the world’s imagina-
20 tion and its heart. Outside the ring, Muhammad Ali
21 has dedicated his life to working for children, feed-
22 ing the hungry, supporting his faith, and standing
23 up for racial equality. He has always fought for a
24 just and more humane world, breaking down bar-
25 riers here in America and around the world. There

1 are no telling how many tens of millions of people
2 had their hearts swell with pride and their eyes swell
3 with tears in 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the
4 Olympic torch, because we know, now and forever,
5 he is the greatest,” President Jimmy Carter who
6 cited Muhammad Ali as “Mr. International Friend-
7 ship,” and President Barack Obama who, as a Sen-
8 ator, had a framed picture of Muhammad Ali hang-
9 ing in his office, and before announcing his inten-
10 tions to run for President, Obama visited with Mu-
11 hammad Ali at the Ali Center in Louisville, Ken-
12 tucky.

13 (15) Muhammad Ali continues to encourage hu-
14 manity through his perseverance and the support of
15 thousands of people. He has helped such organiza-
16 tions as the Chicago-based adoption agency, The
17 Cradle; the Make-A-Wish Foundation; the Special
18 Olympics’ organization, Best Buddies; and Herbert
19 E. Birch Services, an organization that runs a
20 school for handicapped children and young adults, in
21 addition to a summer camp for children infected
22 with AIDS.

23 (16) Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie are
24 founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson
25 Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and have helped raise

1 over \$50 million for Parkinson’s research. The Cen-
2 ter’s mission is to provide excellence in treatment,
3 research, and education for patients and families af-
4 fected by Parkinson’s disease and other movement
5 disorders, regardless of ability to pay.

6 (17) Muhammad Ali is an inspiration to count-
7 less individuals with Parkinson’s disease, including
8 members of the Rock Steady Boxing Foundation in
9 Indianapolis, Indiana, which was founded to give
10 people with Parkinson’s disease hope by improving
11 their quality of life using boxing for fitness.

12 (18) Muhammad Ali is one of the founding
13 members of Athletes for Hope, an organization cre-
14 ated by a few very successful athletes of exemplary
15 character who have a deep commitment to charitable
16 and community causes.

17 (19) Muhammad Ali also established the Mu-
18 hammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville,
19 Kentucky, which promotes respect, hope, and under-
20 standing, and inspires people everywhere to be as
21 great as they can be. A visitor of the Muhammad Ali
22 Center experiences the “hows” of Ali’s life: how he
23 found the courage, the dedication, and the discipline
24 to become who he is today; how he found the convic-
25 tion to stand up for what he believed; and how he

1 turned his passion for excellence in the ring to a
2 passion for peace on the world stage.

3 (20) Like Muhammad Ali himself, the Muham-
4 mad Ali Center focuses on what brings individuals
5 together, not what sets them apart, and is a “global
6 gathering place” to which people can come, both on-
7 line and in person, to learn, share, and celebrate our
8 commonalities as human beings and to formulate
9 ways of advancing humanity.

10 (21) Muhammad Ali has helped to provide more
11 than 22,000,000 aid packets to assist people in
12 need, and until recently traveled, on average, more
13 than 200 days per year for humanitarian causes.

14 (22) Muhammad Ali, known simply as “the
15 greatest,” has transcended the glamour and glory of
16 being a sports champion to become not only one of
17 the greatest sports figures, but one of the greatest
18 role models of our time.

19 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

20 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
21 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
22 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
23 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
24 medal of appropriate design, to Muhammad Ali in recogni-
25 tion of his contributions to the Nation.

1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
2 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
3 of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the
4 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
5 blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the
6 Secretary.

7 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

8 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
9 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
10 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 at
11 a price sufficient to cover the cost of the bronze medals
12 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and
13 overhead expenses) and the cost of the gold medal.

14 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

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