

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2234

To award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BURR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RISCH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KING, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. COATS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

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 “Office of Strategic  
5       Services Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was  
2           America’s first effort to implement a system of stra-  
3           tegic intelligence during World War II and provided  
4           the basis for the modern-day American intelligence  
5           and special operations communities. The U.S. Spe-  
6           cial Operations Command and the National Clandes-  
7           tine Service chose the OSS spearhead as their insig-  
8           nias.

9           (2) OSS founder General William J. Donovan is  
10          the only person in American history to receive our  
11          Nation’s four highest decorations, including the  
12          Medal of Honor. Upon learning of his death in  
13          1959, President Eisenhower called General Donovan  
14          the “last hero”. In addition to founding and leading  
15          the OSS, General Donovan was also selected by  
16          President Roosevelt, who called him his “secret  
17          legs”, as an emissary to Great Britain and conti-  
18          nental Europe before the United States entered  
19          World War II.

20          (3) All the military branches during World War  
21          II contributed personnel to the OSS. The present-  
22          day Special Operations Forces trace their lineage to  
23          the OSS. Its Maritime Unit was a precursor to the  
24          U.S. Navy SEALs. The OSS Operational Groups  
25          and Jedburghs were forerunners to U.S. Army Spe-

1        cial Forces. The 801st/492nd Bombardment Group  
2        (“Carpetbaggers”) were progenitors to the Air Force  
3        Special Operations Command. The Marines who  
4        served in the OSS, including the actor Sterling Hay-  
5        den (a Silver Star recipient), Col. William Eddy (a  
6        Distinguished Service Cross recipient who was de-  
7        scribed as the “nearest thing the United States has  
8        had to a Lawrence of Arabia”), and Col. Peter Ortiz  
9        (a two-time Navy Cross recipient), were predecessors  
10       to the Marine Special Operations Command. U.S.  
11       Coast Guard personnel were recruited for the Mari-  
12       time Unit and its Operational Swimmer Group.

13            (4) The OSS organized, trained, supplied, and  
14       fought with resistance organizations throughout Eu-  
15       rope and Asia that played an important role in  
16       America’s victory during World War II. General Ei-  
17       senhower credited the OSS’s covert contribution in  
18       France to the equivalent to having an extra military  
19       division. General Eisenhower told General Donovan  
20       that if it did nothing else, the photographic recon-  
21       naissance conducted by the OSS prior to the D-Day  
22       Invasion justified its creation.

23            (5) Four future directors of central intelligence  
24       served as OSS officers: William Casey, William  
25       Colby, Allen Dulles, and Richard Helms.

1           (6) Women comprised more than one-third of  
2           OSS personnel and played a critical role in the orga-  
3           nization. They included Virginia Hall, the only civil-  
4           ian female to receive a Distinguished Service Cross  
5           in World War II, and Julia Child.

6           (7) OSS recruited Fritz Kolbe, a German dip-  
7           lomat who became America’s most important spy  
8           against the Nazis in World War II.

9           (8) America’s leading scientists and scholars  
10          served in the OSS Research and Analysis Branch,  
11          including Ralph Bunche, the first African-American  
12          to receive the Nobel Peace Prize; Pulitzer Prize-win-  
13          ning historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.; Supreme  
14          Court Justice Arthur Goldberg; Sherman Kent;  
15          John King Fairbank; and Walt Rostow. Its ranks in-  
16          cluded seven future presidents of the American His-  
17          torical Association, five of the American Economic  
18          Association, and two Nobel laureates.

19          (9) The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of  
20          Intelligence and Research traces its creation to the  
21          OSS Research and Analysis Branch.

22          (10) James Donovan, who was portrayed by  
23          Tom Hanks in the Steven Spielberg movie “Bridge  
24          of Spies” and negotiated the release of U-2 pilot

1 Francis Gary Powers, served as General Counsel of  
2 the OSS.

3 (11) The OSS invented and employed new tech-  
4 nology through its Research and Development  
5 Branch, inventing new weapons and revolutionary  
6 communications equipment. Dr. Christian Lambert-  
7 sen invented the first underwater rebreathing appa-  
8 ratus that was first utilized by the OSS and is  
9 known today as SCUBA.

10 (12) OSS Detachment 101 operated in Burma  
11 and pioneered the art of unconventional warfare. It  
12 was the first United States unit to deploy a large  
13 guerrilla army deep in enemy territory. It has been  
14 credited with the highest kill/loss ratio for any infan-  
15 try-type unit in American military history and was  
16 awarded a Presidential Unit Citation.

17 (13) Its X-2 branch pioneered counterintel-  
18 ligence with the British and established the modern  
19 counterintelligence community. The network of con-  
20 tacts built by the OSS with foreign intelligence serv-  
21 ices led to enduring Cold War alliances.

22 (14) Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of  
23 French North Africa in November 1942, was aided  
24 by the networks established and information ac-  
25 quired by the OSS to guide Allied landings.

1           (15) OSS Operation Halyard rescued more  
2           than 500 downed airmen trapped behind enemy lines  
3           in Yugoslavia, one of the most daring and successful  
4           rescue operations of World War II.

5           (16) OSS “Mercy Missions” at the end of  
6           World War II saved the lives of thousands of Allied  
7           prisoners of war whom it was feared would be mur-  
8           dered by the Japanese.

9           (17) The handful of surviving men and women  
10          of the OSS whom General Donovan said performed  
11          “some of the bravest acts of the war” are members  
12          of the “Greatest Generation”. They have never been  
13          collectively recognized for their heroic and pioneering  
14          service in World War II.

15 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

16          (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
17          the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
18          pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
19          for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
20          medal of appropriate design in commemoration to the  
21          members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), in rec-  
22          ognition of their superior service and major contributions  
23          during World War II.

24          (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
25          presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary

1 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-  
2 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,  
3 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-  
4 retary.

5 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the  
7 gold medal in commemoration to the members of the  
8 Office of Strategic Services under subsection (a), the  
9 gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Insti-  
10 tution, where it will be displayed as appropriate and  
11 made available for research.

12 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
13 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should  
14 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)  
15 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other  
16 appropriate locations associated with the Office of  
17 Strategic Services.

18 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

19 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
20 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
21 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
22 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
23 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
24 and the cost of the gold medal.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
3 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
4 51 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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