

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3589

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond, in recognition of his service to the Nation as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond, in recognition of his service to the Nation as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

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 “Greg LeMond Congres-
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Gregory James “Greg” LeMond was born
9 in Lakewood, California, on June 26, 1961.

1 (2) Greg began cycling at the age of 14, win-
2 ning an astonishing 11 straight races to begin his
3 career.

4 (3) Greg took home a full suite of medals at the
5 1979 Junior World Championships, including gold,
6 silver, and bronze, emerging victorious in the road
7 race and placing in both team and track pursuit
8 events.

9 (4) At age 18, Greg became the youngest cyclist
10 in the history of the sport to be selected for the
11 United States Men's Olympic team.

12 (5) Greg emerged victorious in the 1980 Circuit
13 de la Sarthe, becoming the first American in history
14 and the youngest rider ever to win a major pro-am
15 cycling event on the European continent.

16 (6) At age 19, Greg signed his first professional
17 contract.

18 (7) In 1982, Greg made the first of several re-
19 markable recoveries, returning from a broken collar-
20 bone to win the silver medal at the world champion-
21 ships in Great Britain.

22 (8) The Tour de France, the world's pre-
23 eminent cycling competition, was first held over a
24 century ago, in 1903.

1 (9) The Tour de France takes place over 23
2 days, covering an extraordinary 2,200 miles, winding
3 through multiple mountain ranges, spanning mul-
4 tiple nations, and is viewed as comparable to run-
5 ning a marathon every day for three consecutive
6 weeks.

7 (10) Greg first competed in the Tour de France
8 in 1984, finishing third, and finishing second the
9 following year, in both years deputizing himself to
10 his teammates, sacrificing a chance to win himself to
11 boost his teammates toward victory.

12 (11) Greg emerged victorious in the 1986 Tour
13 de France, ascending the fabled Alpe D'Huez, de-
14 feating the field by more than three full minutes, be-
15 coming the first American and the first non-Euro-
16 pean to win cycling's most prestigious race.

17 (12) In 1987, while recovering from a broken
18 wrist and collarbone, Greg was tragically shot during
19 a turkey hunting accident, leaving him in intensive
20 care, requiring the removal of over 40 shotgun pel-
21 lets from his abdomen, was deemed unlikely to ever
22 ride a bicycle again, and likely survived only due to
23 the abnormal strength of his cardiovascular system.

24 (13) Greg mounted the greatest comeback in
25 the history of American sports, taking home an as-

1 tonishing victory at the 1989 Tour de France, fol-
2 lowing multiple surgeries, life-threatening gunshot
3 wounds, tendon repair, and an appendectomy, win-
4 ning by eight seconds in the closest finish in the his-
5 tory of the Tour de France.

6 (14) Greg would win a third Tour de France
7 victory in 1990.

8 (15) Greg is the only American to win the Tour
9 de France.

10 (16) Greg has vocally spoken out to champion
11 healthy sport amongst athletes of all ages and com-
12 petition levels.

13 (17) Greg and his wife, Kathy, are active in nu-
14 merous nonprofit causes, including healthy sport, as-
15 sisting victims of sexual abuse and various childhood
16 illnesses.

17 (18) Cycling offers young people a healthy, ac-
18 tive, outdoor hobby.

19 (19) Greg completed his professional career
20 having won two World Championships, three Tour
21 de France championships, and twenty-two titles
22 overall.

23 (20) More than any other cyclist, Greg personi-
24 fied the “breakaway” culture of American cycling in
25 the 1970s and 80s, viewed universally as the epit-

1 ome of a young person on a bicycle, attempting to
2 accomplish feats no other American had achieved.

3 (21) Greg has not only reached the pinnacle of
4 international sport, but has devoted his time and re-
5 sources to assisting his fellow athletes.

6 (22) Greg has demonstrated the commitment to
7 excellence, generosity, community, and tenacity that
8 makes him an example for all to follow.

9 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

10 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
11 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
12 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
13 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
14 medal of appropriate design to Greg LeMond, in recogni-
15 tion of his contributions to the Nation as an athlete, activ-
16 ist, role model, and community leader.

17 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
18 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
19 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
20 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
21 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
22 retary.

23 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

24 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
25 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3

1 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
2 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
3 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
4 and the cost of the gold medal.

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

6 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
7 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
8 51 of title 31, United States Code.

9 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
10 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
11 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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