

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 115

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States whose visionary leadership secured passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, Social Security Amendments Act (Medicare) of 1965, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Higher Education Act of 1965, and Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States whose visionary leadership secured passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, Social Security Amendments Act (Medicare) of 1965, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Higher Education Act of 1965, and Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965.

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 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) As a Member of Congress from the Tenth
2 Congressional District of Texas, as majority leader
3 of the U.S. Senate, Vice President and President of
4 the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson's accom-
5 plishments in the fields of civil rights, education,
6 and economic opportunity rank among the greatest
7 achievements of the past half century.

8 (2) As President, Lyndon Johnson proposed,
9 championed, led to passage, and signed into law on
10 August 6, 1965, the Voting Rights Act of 1965,
11 which swept away barriers impeding millions of
12 Americans from meaningful participation in Amer-
13 ican political life.

14 (3) On July 30, 1965, President Johnson
15 signed into law the Social Security Amendments Act
16 of 1965, popularly known as Medicare, which has
17 transformed the delivery of health care in the United
18 States and which, along with Social Security, re-
19 duced the rate of poverty among the elderly from
20 28.5 percent in 1966 to 9.1 percent in 2012.

21 (4) On July 2, 1964, President Johnson se-
22 cured passage and signed into law the most sweep-
23 ing civil rights legislation since Reconstruction, the
24 Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimina-
25 tion in employment, education, and public accom-

1 modations based on race, color, religion, or national
2 origin.

3 (5) On November 8, 1965, President Johnson
4 signed into law the Higher Education Act, which
5 provided need-based financial aid to students in the
6 form of scholarships, work-study grants, and loans,
7 and thus made higher education more accessible to
8 populations of persons who were previously unable to
9 attend college because of economic circumstances.

10 (6) On October 3, 1965, President Johnson
11 signed into law the Immigration and Naturalization
12 Act of 1965, which transformed the Nation’s immi-
13 gration system by abolishing the racially based quota
14 system that had defined American immigration pol-
15 icy for four decades and replaced it with a policy
16 whose central purpose was family reunification, with
17 a preference for immigrants with specific skill sets.

18 (7) According to Robert A. Caro, the pre-
19 eminent biographer of Lyndon Baines Johnson, with
20 the single exception of Lincoln, President Johnson
21 was the greatest champion of the poor and under-
22 privileged in the history of the Republic and was the
23 President “who wrote mercy and justice into the
24 statute books by which America was governed”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
3 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
4 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
5 for the posthumous award, on behalf of Congress, of a
6 gold medal of appropriate design to Lyndon Baines John-
7 son in recognition of his contributions to the Nation, in-
8 cluding passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of
9 1965, the Social Security Amendments Act (Medicare) of
10 1965, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Higher Education
11 Act of 1965, and the Immigration and Naturalization Act
12 of 1965.

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

19 (c) LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY AND MU-
20 SEUM.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
22 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
23 shall be given to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Li-
24 brary and Museum, where it will be available for dis-
25 play as appropriate and available for research.

1 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
2 the Congress that the Lyndon Baines Johnson Li-
3 brary and Museum should make the gold medal
4 awarded pursuant to this Act available for display
5 elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations asso-
6 ciated with Lyndon Baines Johnson.

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

8 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
9 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
10 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
11 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
12 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
13 and the cost of the gold medal.

14 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

15 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
16 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
17 51 of title 31, United States Code.

18 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
19 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
20 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
21 items.

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