

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 450

AN ACT

To award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to
Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till and
3 Mamie Till-Mobley Congressional Gold Medal Act of
4 2021”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The brutal lynching of Emmett Till and the
8 subsequent bravery and boldness of his mother,
9 Mamie Till-Mobley, became a catalyst for the civil
10 rights movement.

11 (2) On August 28, 1955, 14-year-old Emmett
12 Till was kidnapped, beaten, and shot in Money, Mis-
13 sissippi, where he had traveled from Chicago to stay
14 with his great uncle, Moses Wright.

15 (3) The corpse of Emmett Till was discovered
16 3 days later in the Tallahatchie River and his mur-
17 derers were acquitted despite Moses Wright pro-
18 viding an eyewitness testimony that the men on trial
19 kidnapped Emmett Till.

20 (4) Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett
21 Till, demonstrated her love for her son and her cour-
22 age and strength in suffering in the days that fol-
23 lowed as she brought the body of Emmett Till back
24 to Chicago for burial and demanded an open casket
25 funeral, which drew more than 50,000 attendees.

1 (5) Mamie Till-Mobley further allowed a photo-
2 graph to be taken of Emmett Till in his casket,
3 which was shown throughout the world.

4 (6) The original casket of Emmett Till stands
5 on display at the National Museum of African Amer-
6 ican History and Culture as an enduring reminder
7 of the racial violence that is a part of the history of
8 the United States that the people of the United
9 States must confront.

10 (7) The heroic actions of Mamie Till-Mobley in
11 the midst of evil, injustice, and grief became a cata-
12 lyst for the civil rights movement and continued in
13 the years to come as she worked for justice and hon-
14 ored the legacy of Emmett Till.

15 (8) Mamie Till-Mobley went on to create the
16 Emmett Till Players, which was a significant na-
17 tional cultural contribution as teenagers traveled
18 throughout the country presenting Martin Luther
19 King Jr. speeches in the name of Emmett Till.

20 (9) Mamie Till-Mobley also served as chair and
21 co-founder of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign,
22 which had the dual mission of reopening the murder
23 of Emmett Till for a reinvestigation and a passage
24 into law of Federal legislation to ensure that other

1 racially motivated murders during the civil rights era
2 were investigated and, when possible, prosecuted.

3 (10) The efforts of the Emmett Till Justice
4 Campaign led to the successful joint investigation by
5 the State of Mississippi, the Federal Bureau of In-
6 vestigation, and the Department of Justice in 2004,
7 the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil
8 Rights Crime Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–344;
9 122 Stat. 3934), signed into law by President
10 George W. Bush, and the Emmett Till Unsolved
11 Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016
12 (Public Law 114–325; 130 Stat. 1965), signed into
13 law by President Barack Obama.

14 (11) The people of the United States honor the
15 legacy of Emmett Till and the incredible suffering
16 and equally incredible courage, resilience, and efforts
17 of Mamie Till-Mobley that led to the civil rights
18 movement that began in the 1950s.

19 **SEC. 3. 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 posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,
24 of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration
25 of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
 2 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
 3 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
 4 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
 5 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
 6 retary. The design shall bear an image of, and inscriptions
 7 of the name of, “Emmett Till” and “Mamie Till-Mobley”.

8 (c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold
 10 medal referred to in subsection (a), the gold medal
 11 shall be given to the National Museum of African
 12 American History and Culture, where it shall be dis-
 13 played as appropriate.

14 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
 15 Congress that the National Museum of African
 16 American History and Culture should make the gold
 17 medal received under paragraph (1) available for
 18 display elsewhere, particularly at other locations and
 19 events associated with Emmett Till and Mamie Till-
 20 Mobley.

21 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

22 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
 23 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price
 24 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
 25 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

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

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
 3 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
 4 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.

8 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
 9 **SALE.**

10 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
 11 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
 12 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
 13 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
 14 this Act.

15 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—Amounts received from
 16 the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under sec-
 17 tion 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Pub-
 18 lic Enterprise Fund.

Passed the Senate January 10, 2022.

Attest:

Secretary.

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