

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 91

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 26, 2023

Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

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 “Forgotten Heroes of
5 the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The following diplomats will be honored
9 posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria

1 Barreto (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden), Philippe
 2 Bernardini (Vatican/Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bingham
 3 IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzerland),
 4 Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador), Carlos
 5 de Liz-Teixeira Branquinho (Portugal), Eduardo
 6 Propper de Callejón (Spain), Samuel del Campo
 7 (Chile), Aracy Moebius Carvalho de Guimarães Rosa
 8 (Brazil), José Arturo Castellanos (El Salvador), Carl
 9 Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis Martins de Souza
 10 Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz (Ger-
 11 many), Harald Feller (Switzerland), Francis
 12 (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-Edouard
 13 Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida Afonseca de
 14 Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond Herman
 15 Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho (China),
 16 Constantin Karadja (Romania), Alexander Kasser
 17 (Sándor Kasza) (Sweden/Hungary), Elow Kihlgren
 18 (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman (Nether-
 19 lands), Julius Kühl (Switzerland), Aleksander Ładoś
 20 (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Sweden), Charles
 21 (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George Mandel-Mantello
 22 (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu (Romania), Aristides
 23 de Sousa Mendes (Portugal), Salomon Jacob (Sally)
 24 Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio (Jorge) Perlasca
 25 (Spain/Italy), Ernst Prodolliet (Switzerland), Franjo

1 Punčuch (Yugoslavia/Slovenia), Sebastián de Ro-
 2 mero Radigales (Spain), Konstanty Rokicki (Po-
 3 land), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Vatican/Italy), An-
 4 gelo Rotta (Vatican/Italy), Albert Emile Routier
 5 (Turkey), Stefan Ryniewicz (Poland), Gilberto
 6 Bosques Saldivar (Mexico), José Ruiz Santaella
 7 (Spain), Ángel Sanz-Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein
 8 Sardari (Iran), Henryk Slawik (Poland), Robert
 9 Smallbones (United Kingdom), Ján Spišiak (Slo-
 10 vakia), Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara (Japan),
 11 Ireanaeus Typaldos (Spain), Alexander (Sándor)
 12 Újváry (Vatican/Hungary), Selahattin Ülkümen
 13 (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino (Vatican/Italy),
 14 Vladimír Vochoč (Czech Republic), Ernst Vonrufs
 15 (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg (Sweden), Guelfo
 16 Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zürcher (Switzerland), and
 17 Jan Zwartendijk (Holland).

18 (2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and
 19 the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which
 20 started World War II and threw the world into
 21 chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish
 22 population was in full motion. As battles were being
 23 fought between countries, Jews were being rounded
 24 up and sent to concentration camps throughout Eu-
 25 rope. This process began a mass exodus of people

1 out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish com-
2 munity.

3 (3) During the war, members of the Jewish
4 community used every tool and means at their dis-
5 posal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee
6 on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

7 (4) While the armies of countries were fighting
8 each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the
9 world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to
10 save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly
11 dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the ac-
12 tions of these diplomats they would be expelled, as
13 a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the
14 Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers
15 and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict
16 orders from their home countries to not aid the Jew-
17 ish population in any way.

18 (5) These diplomats used every means at their
19 disposal to help Jews fleeing persecution. One of the
20 most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was
21 the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to
22 the instruction of the governments of the diplomats.
23 This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds
24 of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was
25 not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were

1 connected with the local populations and were great
2 communicators for Jews trying to travel under-
3 ground. They were able set up safehouses and
4 getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children
5 from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of
6 times, several of these diplomats confronted the
7 Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally
8 put themselves in grave danger.

9 (6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew
10 what they were up against, and still pushed forward
11 to save those in the most danger.

12 (7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized
13 under this Act will help remind humanity that when
14 the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they
15 went beyond the fold, including risking their careers
16 and the lives of themselves and their families, to en-
17 gage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of
18 today and future generations can look towards these
19 heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and
20 sacrifice.

21 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

22 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
23 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
24 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
25 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single

1 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 dip-
2 lomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their
3 brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War
4 II.

5 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
6 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
7 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
8 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
9 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
10 retary.

11 (c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The gold medal pre-
12 sented under subsection (a) shall be presented to the eld-
13 est next of kin of each of the 60 diplomats identified in
14 section 2(1), who shall receive the medal as part of a dele-
15 gation consisting of a senior official representative of the
16 country that each diplomat served and the cochairs of the
17 Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Committee.

18 (d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MU-
19 SEUM.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
21 gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified
22 in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the
23 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where
24 it will be available for display as appropriate and
25 available for research.

1 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
2 Congress that the United States Holocaust Memo-
3 rial Museum should make the gold medal awarded
4 pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere,
5 particularly at appropriate locations associated with
6 Holocaust remembrance.

7 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

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

13 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to
14 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
15 of title 31, United States Code.

16 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
17 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
18 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
20 **SALE.**

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

1 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
2 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
3 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
4 Enterprise Fund.

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