

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 763

To posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to James J. Andrews and William H. Campbell in recognition of their extraordinary bravery and steadfast devotion to the Nation during the Civil War as the only civilian members of Andrews' Raiders, who launched a daring military raid that became known as the "Great Locomotive Chase".

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to James J. Andrews and William H. Campbell in recognition of their extraordinary bravery and steadfast devotion to the Nation during the Civil War as the only civilian members of Andrews' Raiders, who launched a daring military raid that became known as the "Great Locomotive Chase".

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 “James J. Andrews and
3 William H. Campbell Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) James J. Andrews was born in Holiday’s
7 Cove, Virginia (now Weirton, West Virginia), in
8 1829. He eventually moved to Kentucky. During the
9 Civil War, Andrews served as a civilian spy for the
10 Union Army and was the leader and organizer of
11 Andrews’ Raiders.

12 (2) William Hunter Campbell, born in Carroll
13 County, Ohio, on September 9, 1839, was a unique
14 addition to the raid. In 1862, he was visiting friends
15 with the 2d Ohio Infantry in Kentucky when he was
16 unexpectedly recruited for a daring mission.

17 (3) On March 25, 1862, James J. Andrews de-
18 veloped a plan to cut off the Western and Atlantic
19 Rail Line supply line from Marietta, Georgia, to
20 Chattanooga, Tennessee, to allow the Union Army to
21 attack and occupy the city. Andrews presented the
22 plan to General Buell and General O.M. Mitchell,
23 commanding the Union Army in North Alabama.
24 The plan was accepted, and Andrews gathered 22
25 Union soldiers from 3 Ohio Regiments (2d Ohio In-
26 fantry, 21st Ohio Infantry, 33d Ohio Infantry). The

1 plan was to work from northern Alabama in small
2 groups, dressed in civilian clothes, and reach Mari-
3 etta, Georgia, to gather and steal a train. They were
4 to run the train toward Chattanooga, cut the tele-
5 graph lines, tear up railroad tracks, and, if possible,
6 burn the bridges. This would cut off all troop move-
7 ment and supplies from getting to Chattanooga. The
8 capture of Chattanooga early in the war would cut
9 off essential supplies and food from getting up to
10 Virginia and the Confederate Army there.

11 (4) On April 12, 1862, 24 volunteers from the
12 Union Army, led by civilian scout James J. An-
13 drews, commandeered a Confederate locomotive
14 named the “General” outside of Big Shanty, Geor-
15 gia (now Kennesaw), and took it northward toward
16 Chattanooga, Tennessee, doing as much damage as
17 possible to the vital Western and Atlantic Railroad
18 line as they went. Out of fuel, Andrews and his men
19 abandoned the locomotive and scattered into the
20 woods before being captured by Confederate troops.

21 (5) All captured were put on trial and convicted
22 for acts of “unlawful belligerency” or being unlawful
23 combatants and spies. Shortly after that, Andrews
24 and 7 of the Raiders were executed by hanging, with
25 the remaining held as prisoners-of-war. Andrews’

1 body was taken down from the scaffold and buried.
2 On October 16, 1887, his remains were recovered
3 and taken to their final resting place at Chattanooga
4 National Cemetery.

5 (6) William H. Campbell was hung with 6 of
6 the military men on June 18, 1862. In April 1866,
7 these men were relocated and interred in Chat-
8 tanooga National Cemetery.

9 (7) On March 25, 1863, 6 members of An-
10 drews' Raiders were awarded the first Medals of
11 Honor in our Nation's history. Ultimately, 21 of the
12 24 members of Andrews' Raiders would receive the
13 Medal of Honor for their actions on that day. On
14 July 3rd, 2024, President Biden awarded the most
15 recent Medals of Honor to members of Andrews'
16 Raiders, stating "Their heroic deeds went
17 unacknowledged for over a century, but time did not
18 erase their valor".

19 (8) Chattanooga, Tennessee, is recognized as
20 the birthplace of the Medal of Honor.

21 (9) In 1956, Walt Disney made a movie about
22 Andrews' Raiders' exploits called "The Great Loco-
23 motive Chase", starring Fess Parker as Andrews.
24 Buster Keaton's 1927 feature-length comedy mas-

1 terpiece “The General” was loosely based on the in-
2 cident.

3 (10) Today, the hijacked locomotive, “General”,
4 is on display at The Southern Museum in Kennesaw,
5 Georgia. “Texas”, the locomotive used to give chase,
6 is on display at the Atlanta History Center in At-
7 lanta, Georgia.

8 (11) The civilians of the Andrews’ Raiders,
9 James J. Andrews and William Hunter Campbell,
10 acted with extraordinary bravery and unwavering de-
11 votion to their Nation as they attempted to turn the
12 tide of the Civil War.

13 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

14 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
15 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
16 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
17 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single
18 gold medal of appropriate design collectively in commemo-
19 ration of James J. Andrews and William H. Campbell, in
20 recognition of their extraordinary bravery and steadfast
21 devotion to the Nation during the Civil War as the only
22 civilian members of Andrews’ Raiders, who launched a
23 daring military raid that became known as the “Great Lo-
24 comotive Chase”.

1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the 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.

7 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
9 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
10 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
11 it shall be available for display as appropriate and
12 made available for research.

13 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
14 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall
15 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
16 available for—

17 (A) display, particularly at the Charles H.
18 Coolidge National Medal of Honor Museum;
19 and

20 (B) loan, as appropriate, so that the medal
21 may be displayed elsewhere.

22 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

1 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
2 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

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

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
5 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
6 31, United States Code.

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
8 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
9 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
10 items.

11 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
12 **SALE.**

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

18 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
19 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
20 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
21 Enterprise Fund.

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