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To award posthumously a congressional gold medal to Charles B. Rangel, an American trailblazer and public servant, in recognition of his remarkable life and career in which he elevated the voices and interests of underserved communities, bolstered the reputation of the United States on the global stage, and cofounded the Congressional Black Caucus.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2025

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award posthumously a congressional gold medal to Charles B. Rangel, an American trailblazer and public servant, in recognition of his remarkable life and career in which he elevated the voices and interests of underserved communities, bolstered the reputation of the United States on the global stage, and cofounded the Congressional Black Caucus.

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 “Charles B. Rangel
5 Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Charles Bernard Rangel, born on June 11,
4 1930, in Harlem, New York City, was raised largely
5 by his mother Blanche Mary Wharton Rangel and
6 grandfather Charles Wharton alongside his older
7 brother Ralph, Jr., and younger sister Frances.

8 (2) After dropping out of high school at age 16,
9 Rangel enlisted in the United States Army and
10 served as an artillery operations specialist in the all-
11 Black 503rd Field Artillery Battalion in the 2nd In-
12 fantry Division from 1948 to 1952 during the Ko-
13 rean War.

14 (3) During the Battle of Kunu-ri near the Yalu
15 River on the border of China and North Korea, Ran-
16 gel and his fellow soldiers were encircled by Chinese
17 military forces and were subsequently ordered to
18 withdraw by their command.

19 (4) Upon receiving the withdrawal order, then-
20 Private First Class Rangel was injured by shrapnel
21 from a barrage of Chinese shells, which struck his
22 back and triggered disarray amongst his comrades.

23 (5) Despite his serious injuries, rank, and an
24 encircled position behind enemy lines, in the middle
25 of the night Rangel led his unit of an estimated 40
26 men through a mountain pass to safety.

1 (6) For his bravery and sacrifice, Rangel was
2 bestowed the Bronze Star with Valor and Purple
3 Heart, as well as receiving overwhelming admiration,
4 appreciation and lasting respect from his comrades.
5 When asked to reflect on the harrowing episode,
6 Rangel often noted that he had “not had a bad day
7 since”, a phrase that he adopted as the title of his
8 autobiography.

9 (7) Upon his honorable discharge from the
10 Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant, Rangel re-
11 turned to Harlem, finished high school, and used his
12 benefits under the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act
13 of 1944 (commonly known as the “G.I. Bill”; 58
14 Stat. 284, chapter 268) to obtain a Bachelor of
15 Science from New York University where he made
16 the Dean’s List. He subsequently received a full
17 scholarship to attend St. John’s University School of
18 Law, from which he graduated in 1960.

19 (8) After a tenure in private practice, Rangel
20 was appointed Assistant United States Attorney for
21 the Southern District of New York by Attorney Gen-
22 eral Robert F. Kennedy. After leaving the role, Ran-
23 gel served as Associate Counsel to the Speaker of
24 the New York State Assembly, a law clerk to Judge
25 James L. Watson on the United States Court of

1 International Trade, and as General Counsel to the
2 National Advisory Commission on Selective Service.

3 (9) The positions he took early in his career en-
4 sured that Rangel would always remain in close
5 proximity to his roots in Harlem, where he met his
6 wife Alma Carter, a social worker, in the mid-1950s,
7 at the Savoy Ballroom. Their loving marriage
8 stretched more than 60 years and included 2 chil-
9 dren, Steven and Alicia, daughter-in-law Adelina,
10 son-in-law Howard, and 3 grandsons, Howard R.
11 Haughton, Joshua R. Haughton, and Charles R.
12 Haughton.

13 (10) Rangel's early political marks can be found
14 on matters and missions of profound significance.
15 He participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery
16 March, was elected to replace his mentor Percy Sut-
17 ton in the New York State Assembly, and was one
18 of the pillars in New York's generational political
19 powerhouse, "The Gang of Four", which included
20 New York State Senator Basil Paterson, Manhattan
21 Borough President and Civil Rights Leader Percy
22 Sutton, and David Dinkins, the first black mayor of
23 New York City.

24 (11) Following his election to the House of
25 Representatives in 1970, Rangel quickly rose

1 through the ranks of the Congressional Democrats
2 and was ultimately reelected 23 times.

3 (12) Shortly after his induction to the House in
4 early 1971, Rangel, along with 12 other Black Mem-
5 bers of Congress founded the Congressional Black
6 Caucus. He was elected by his colleagues to lead the
7 Caucus as Chairman in 1974.

8 (13) Rangel energized the national discussion
9 around drug trafficking, later becoming Chairman of
10 the Select Committee on Narcotics, and was a
11 prominent contributor to the work of the Committee
12 on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on
13 the Watergate Scandal.

14 (14) Due to his growing influence, Rangel was
15 granted a position on the coveted Ways and Means
16 Committee and was elevated to serve as Deputy Ma-
17 jority Whip under Speaker Tip O'Neill.

18 (15) Rangel used his newfound power in Con-
19 gress to secure Federal support for programs that
20 benefitted his congressional district and other con-
21 stituencies.

22 (16) He authored and supported legislation and
23 programs that uplifted vulnerable populations like
24 Child Care and Development Block Grants, the Low
25 Income Housing Tax Credit, the Earned Income

1 Tax Credit, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Em-
2 powerment Zones, and Temporary Assistance for
3 Needy Families.

4 (17) He introduced measures to ensure that
5 human rights and democratic principles were re-
6 flected in international business activity, including
7 an amendment rescinding tax credits for companies
8 doing business in apartheid South Africa.

9 (18) To ensure that the diplomatic corps re-
10 flected the diversity of the United States, Rangel es-
11 tablished the Charles B. Rangel International Af-
12 fairs Fellowship Program in partnership with How-
13 ard University, which now has more than 200 alum-
14 ni serving in posts around the world.

15 (19) Rangel was also the primary force behind
16 the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C.
17 3701 et seq.), the first Act to provide incentives for
18 United States trade with sub-Saharan Africa, which
19 he authored and advanced despite significant polit-
20 ical headwinds. He subsequently worked with Presi-
21 dent George W. Bush, to pass the AGOA Accelera-
22 tion Act of 2004 (19 U.S.C. 3701 note), which
23 synergized and expanded on his earlier efforts that
24 instituted the trade program.

1 (20) Rangel similarly forged a sequence of
2 trade agreements and programs pertaining to Latin
3 America and the Caribbean, including trade pref-
4 erences for countries in the Caribbean under the
5 Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C.
6 2701 et seq.), as expanded by the United States-
7 Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (19 U.S.C.
8 2701 note) and the Haitian Hemispheric Oppor-
9 tunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of
10 2008 (19 U.S.C. 2701 note), and the Dominican Re-
11 public-Central America-United States Free Trade
12 Agreement.

13 (21) Rangel was a lifelong champion for vet-
14 erans, particularly service members who historically
15 faced discrimination both in uniform and upon re-
16 turning home. As a decorated Korean War veteran
17 himself, Rangel often leaned on his personal experi-
18 ence and legislative authority to spotlight the needs
19 of underserved veterans and ensure they received the
20 benefits, respect, and opportunities they earned
21 through their service. Rangel spearheaded legislation
22 to close systemic gaps in Federal veterans programs,
23 establish the Office of Minority Veterans, expand ac-
24 cess to services of the Department of Veterans Af-

1 fairs, and strengthen the G.I. Bill, veterans housing
2 programs, and small business opportunities.

3 (22) As one of the few Korean War veterans
4 serving in Congress, Rangel sponsored and secured
5 enactment of legislation establishing National Ko-
6 rean War Veterans Armistice Day on July 27th in
7 the section 127 of title 36, United States Code, to
8 honor his fellow veterans. He also deepened United
9 States-Korea relations through founding the Con-
10 gressional Caucus on Korea, facilitating passage of
11 the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, and
12 passing resolutions that strengthen the bilateral
13 strategic alliance, promote peace and stability on the
14 Korean Peninsula, and support Korean American
15 family reunification efforts.

16 (23) As Dean of the New York Congressional
17 Delegation, he led his colleagues in the wake of the
18 9/11 attacks to pass measures that provided funding
19 to recovery efforts and relief to families that were
20 impacted, such as the extension of unemployment
21 benefits and provided health benefits to 9/11 first
22 responders and survivors.

23 (24) In 2007, Rangel became Chair of the pow-
24 erful Ways and Means Committee. In that role, he
25 was instrumental in the development and passage of

1 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
2 (Public Law 111–148; 124 Stat. 119), which has
3 provided coverage to an estimated 20,000,000 unin-
4 sured or underinsured people of the United States.
5 He also ensured that United States territories like
6 Puerto Rico were not left out of this landmark law.

7 (25) Rangel’s exceptional life was heavily
8 marked by his extraordinary accomplishments in the
9 military, various government roles, and elected of-
10 fice, which led to economic and social advancements
11 for his fellow servicemembers, constituents of his
12 district, underserved communities across the coun-
13 try, and people around the globe.

14 (26) During his congressional career, Rangel
15 crafted and passed numerous measures of signifi-
16 cance, including several that remain foundational to
17 our military, diplomatic corps, healthcare system,
18 international trade relationships, and tax code.

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 to Charles B. Ran-
25 gel, in recognition of his contribution to the United States

1 and his achievements of paving the way for equality and
2 for people of all backgrounds, regardless of demographic
3 or economic class.

4 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
5 presentation described in subsection (a), the Secretary of
6 the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”)
7 shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices,
8 and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The
9 design shall bear an image of, and inscription of the name
10 of, Charles B. Rangel.

11 (c) DISPOSITION OF MEDAL.—Following the presen-
12 tation described in subsection (a), the gold medal shall be
13 given to the children of Charles B. Rangel, Steven Rangel
14 and Alicia Rangel.

15 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

16 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
17 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at
18 a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, includ-
19 ing labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead
20 expenses.

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

22 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
23 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
24 31, United States Code.

1 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
2 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
3 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
4 items.

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

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

12 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
13 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
14 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
15 Enterprise Fund.

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