

Public Law 99-298
99th Congress

An Act

May 13, 1986

[S. 2308]

To authorize the President of the United States to award congressional gold medals to Natan (Anatoly) and Avital Shcharansky in recognition of their dedication to human rights, and to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to sell bronze duplicates of those medals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

31 USC 5111
note.

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) Avital Shcharansky and Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky have displayed immense courage and commitment to the preservation of individual human rights, regarded as among the highest of ideals by the American people;

(2) Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky, a prominent founding member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group and active spokesman for the human rights denied to Soviet Jews, was unjustly arrested by the Soviet Union in 1977 and imprisoned for almost nine years on the false charges of espionage and treason;

(3) Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky, during his lengthy incarceration and isolation, was subjected to ongoing emotional and physical deprivation of the highest magnitude, yet continued to display raw courage and the noblest commitment to his rights as an individual, thereby setting an example for others whose individual freedoms are being denied;

(4) freedom is the ideal held most dear by the American people, and Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky has become a symbol of that love of freedom;

(5) Avital Shcharansky, while her husband was kept silent by Soviet prisons and labor camps, waged an indefatigable campaign around the world on behalf of her husband and others similarly treated;

(6) Avital Shcharansky's earnest persistence and dedication to the precepts of freedom of thought, word, and deed raised the consciousness of the world while she valiantly worked for her husband's release, thus elevating human rights to a global concern; and

(7) their reunion is evidence of the triumph of the human spirit against all adversities.

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SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD.—The President of the United States is authorized and requested to present, on behalf of the Congress, gold medals to Natan (Anatoly) and Avital Shcharansky in recognition of their supreme dedication and total commitment to the cause of individual human rights and freedoms.

(b) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter

in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall cause to be struck two gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$30,000 to carry out the provisions of this section.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) **CONSTRUCTION AND SALE.**—The Secretary may cause duplicates in bronze of the gold medals provided for in section 2 to be coined and sold under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, at a price sufficient to cover the cost of such duplicates and such gold medals, including labor, material, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(b) **REIMBURSEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Any appropriation made under section 2 shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of the sales referred to in subsection (a).

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals provided for in this Act shall be considered to be national medals for purposes of section 5111 of title 31, United States Code.

Approved May 13, 1986.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2308 (H.R. 4186):

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 132 (1986):

May 8, considered and passed Senate.

May 12, H.R. 4186 considered and passed House; proceedings vacated and S. 2308 passed in lieu.