

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9593

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 15, 2022

Mr. PANETTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

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 “Everett Alvarez, Jr.,
5 Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Commander (CDR) Everett Alvarez, Jr.,
9 served with distinction in the Vietnam war and made
10 historic sacrifices for the United States as the first

1 United States pilot to be shot down and captured
2 during the Vietnam war and the second-longest pris-
3 oner of war in United States history, surviving over
4 eight-and-a-half years in captivity.

5 (2) CDR Alvarez was born in Salinas, Cali-
6 fornia, in 1937, and was the grandchild of Mexican
7 immigrants.

8 (3) CDR Alvarez attended Salinas Union High
9 School and Hartnell College and received a bachelor
10 of science degree from Santa Clara University.

11 (4) In 1960, CDR Alvarez joined the United
12 States Navy and was commissioned as Ensign.

13 (5) After receiving his commission, CDR Alva-
14 rez attended flight training at the Naval Air Basic
15 Training Command in Pensacola, Florida.

16 (6) In June 1961, CDR Alvarez was trans-
17 ferred to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in
18 Kingsville, Texas, where he trained until December
19 1961.

20 (7) CDR Alvarez was promoted to Lieutenant
21 (junior grade) in April 1962.

22 (8) In June 1962, CDR Alvarez joined Attack
23 Squadron 144, nicknamed the “Roadrunners”,
24 which was deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin prior to

1 the United States entrance in the Vietnam war in
2 August 1964.

3 (9) On August 5, 1964, while flying Operation
4 Pierce Arrow from the USS Constellation near the
5 Vietnam-China border, CDR Alvarez's A-4 Skyhawk
6 was shot down and he was captured by a Vietnamese
7 fishing vessel.

8 (10) Upon capture, CDR Alvarez was taken to
9 the Hòa Lò Prison in Hanoi, known to many former
10 prisoners as the "Hanoi Hilton".

11 (11) CDR Alvarez spent his first thirteen
12 months, eight days, and five hours in isolation.

13 (12) While at Hòa Lò, CDR Alvarez was re-
14 peatedly beaten and tortured and was fed inedible
15 meals and suffered malnourishment.

16 (13) In September 1965, CDR Alvarez was
17 moved to the "Briarpatch", a prison camp west of
18 Hanoi, with no electricity or running water.

19 (14) Despite torture and interrogation, CDR
20 Alvarez remained loyal to the United States and as-
21 sisted other American prisoners of war.

22 (15) CDR Alvarez, with his own actions, en-
23 couraged and inspired fellow prisoners of war to
24 "Return with Honor", which meant keeping their in-
25 tegrity in the face of torture and not cooperating

1 with or divulging information to the enemy, so they
2 could return home having remained loyal to the
3 United States.

4 (16) While at “the Zoo”, an overflow prison
5 camp on the outskirts of Hanoi, CDR Alvarez
6 taught the mute hand code communication technique
7 to other captives and used the code to keep up spir-
8 its and stay organized.

9 (17) On July 6, 1966, CDR Alvarez and 51
10 other American prisoners of war were forced to
11 march in the “Hanoi Parade” where he was abused
12 and attacked by mobs.

13 (18) CDR Alvarez was released February 12,
14 1973, after spending 3,113 days in captivity, or
15 eight years and six months.

16 (19) Following his release and hospitalization,
17 CDR Alvarez resumed his Naval service, returning
18 to Naval Air Station Kingsville for refresher flight
19 training.

20 (20) CDR Alvarez attended the U.S. Naval
21 Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and re-
22 ceived a master’s degree in Operations Research and
23 Systems Analysis in 1976.

1 (21) CDR Alvarez was inducted into the U.S.
2 Naval Postgraduate School's Alumni Hall of Fame
3 on March 27, 2015.

4 (22) CDR Alvarez served in Program Manage-
5 ment at the Naval Air Systems command in Wash-
6 ington, DC, from October 1976 until his retirement.

7 (23) CDR Alvarez retired from the Navy on
8 June 30, 1980, completing a 20-year Naval career.

9 (24) In 1983, CDR Alvarez earned his juris
10 doctor from the George Washington School of Law
11 and has been admitted to the District of Columbia
12 bar.

13 (25) In April 1981, President Ronald Reagan
14 appointed CDR Alvarez as Deputy Director of the
15 Peace Corps, where he served until 1982.

16 (26) In July 1982, President Reagan nomi-
17 nated CDR Alvarez to be Deputy Administrator of
18 the Veterans Administration, now known as the De-
19 partment of Veterans Affairs, serving until 1986.

20 (27) In February 1987, President Reagan ap-
21 pointed CDR Alvarez to Board of Regents of the
22 Uniformed Services University of the Health
23 Sciences, where he served for nearly 21 years.

24 (28) For his service, CDR Alvarez was awarded
25 the Silver Star Medal, two Legions of Merit, the

1 Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Star Med-
2 als, two Purple Hearts, and the Prisoner of War
3 Medal.

4 (29) On September 18, 2012, the United States
5 Navy Memorial awarded CDR Alvarez the “Lone
6 Sailor Award”.

7 (30) The people of the United States honor the
8 sacrifices of CDR Alvarez and his service to our Na-
9 tion.

10 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

11 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
12 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
13 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
14 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
15 medal of appropriate design to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in rec-
16 ognition of his service to the Nation.

17 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
18 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
19 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
20 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
21 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
22 retary.

23 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

24 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
25 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in

1 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price
2 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
3 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

4 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

5 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
6 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
7 31, United States Code.

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

