

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1401

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Muhammad Ali, in  
recognition of his contributions to the Nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions 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 “Muhammad Ali Con-  
5       gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., on Janu-  
9       ary 17, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, Muhammad

1 Ali was the first child of Cassius, Sr., and Odessa  
2 Clay.

3 (2) Muhammad Ali was one of the most cele-  
4 brated athletes of the 20th century. He produced  
5 some of America's greatest sports memories, from  
6 winning a gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics  
7 to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer  
8 Olympics.

9 (3) After an impressive amateur career, during  
10 which he recorded 131 wins and only 7 losses and  
11 won 2 National AAU light heavyweight titles, Mu-  
12 hammad Ali became the first professional boxer in  
13 history to capture the heavyweight title 3 separate  
14 times.

15 (4) Muhammad Ali defeated every challenger he  
16 faced in the ring. But, on April 28, 1967, he was  
17 stripped of his boxing title and barred from com-  
18 peting for being a conscientious objector to the war  
19 in Vietnam on religious and moral grounds. How-  
20 ever, following a unanimous United States Supreme  
21 Court decision in 1971, Muhammad Ali's conscien-  
22 tious objector status was confirmed, his boxing li-  
23 cense was reinstated, and he was cleared of any  
24 wrongdoing.

1           (5) As an African American and a Muslim who  
2       lived in an era that continued to question his civil  
3       rights, Muhammad Ali battled issues of race and re-  
4       ligion, and received recognition as one of the cham-  
5       pions of the Civil Rights Movement in the United  
6       States.

7           (6) Muhammad Ali was the recipient of many  
8       awards for his sporting prowess and his support of  
9       racial harmony, including the Dr. Martin Luther  
10      King Memorial Award, the Spirit of America Award,  
11      the Amnesty International Lifetime Achievement  
12      Award, the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, the Es-  
13      sence Living Legend Award, the Rainbow Coalition  
14      Lifetime Achievement Award, the XNBA Human  
15      Spirit Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and  
16      the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

17          (7) Muhammad Ali was acknowledged by many  
18      organizations for his achievements both inside and  
19      outside the boxing ring, including being crowned  
20      “Sportsman of the Century” by Sports Illustrated,  
21      being named “Athlete of the Century” by GQ maga-  
22      zine, being named “Sports Personality of the Cen-  
23      tury” by the British Broadcasting Corporation,  
24      being named “Kentucky Athlete of the Century” by  
25      the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, being named

1 “Kentuckian of the Century” by the State of Ken-  
2 tucky, being named “Louisvillian of the Century” by  
3 the Advertising Club of Louisville, being named  
4 “Boxer of the Century” by the World Sports Awards  
5 of the Century, being recognized by the Inter-  
6 national Boxing Hall of Fame, and receiving hon-  
7 orary doctorate degrees from Muhlenberg College  
8 and Western Kentucky University, as well as an  
9 honorary doctorate of humanities at Princeton Uni-  
10 versity’s 260th graduation ceremony.

11 (8) Muhammad Ali received the prestigious  
12 “Otto Hahn Peace Medal in Gold” from the United  
13 Nations Association of Germany for his work with  
14 the United Nations and the Civil Rights Movement  
15 in the United States.

16 (9) Muhammad Ali was selected by the Cali-  
17 fornia Bicentennial Foundation for the U.S. Con-  
18 stitution for personifying the vitality of the Bill of  
19 Rights in various high-profile activities.

20 (10) Despite having been diagnosed with Par-  
21 kinson’s Syndrome in the early 1980s, Muhammad  
22 Ali dedicated his life to the cause of universal  
23 human rights and freedom. His commitment to  
24 equal justice and peace touched the lives of hundreds  
25 of thousands of people worldwide.

1           (11) President Jimmy Carter asked Muhammad  
2 Ali to meet with African leaders in Tanzania, Kenya,  
3 Nigeria, Liberia, and Senegal as part of President  
4 Carter’s diplomatic efforts on behalf of human rights  
5 in the 1980s.

6           (12) In 1990, Muhammad Ali traveled to the  
7 Middle East to seek the release of American and  
8 British hostages that were being held as human  
9 shields in the first Gulf War. As a result of his  
10 intervention, 15 United States hostages were freed  
11 on December 2nd of that year.

12           (13) In 1998, Muhammad Ali was chosen as  
13 the “U.N. Messenger of Peace”.

14           (14) Several Presidents of the United States  
15 recognized Muhammad Ali, including President  
16 George W. Bush who, on November 17, 2002, called  
17 him “a man of peace” and stated that “across the  
18 world, billions of people know Muhammad Ali as a  
19 brave, compassionate, and charming man, and the  
20 American people are proud to call Muhammad Ali  
21 one of our own”, President Bill Clinton who stated  
22 that Muhammad Ali “captured the world’s imagina-  
23 tion and its heart. Outside the ring, Muhammad Ali  
24 has dedicated his life to working for children, feed-  
25 ing the hungry, supporting his faith, and standing

1 up for racial equality. He always fought for a just  
2 and more humane world, breaking down barriers  
3 here in America and around the world. There is no  
4 telling how many tens of millions of people had their  
5 hearts swell with pride and their eyes swell with  
6 tears in 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic  
7 torch, because we know, now and forever, he is the  
8 greatest”, President Jimmy Carter who cited Mu-  
9 hammad Ali as “Mr. International Friendship”, and  
10 President Barack Obama who, as a Senator, had a  
11 framed picture of Muhammad Ali hanging in his of-  
12 fice, and before announcing his intentions to run for  
13 President, Obama visited with Muhammad Ali at the  
14 Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

15 (15) Muhammad Ali encouraged humanity  
16 through his perseverance and the support of thou-  
17 sands of people. He helped such organizations as the  
18 Chicago-based adoption agency, The Cradle; the  
19 Make-A-Wish Foundation; the Special Olympics’ or-  
20 ganization, Best Buddies; and Herbert E. Birch  
21 Services, an organization that runs a school for  
22 handicapped children and young adults, in addition  
23 to a summer camp for children with AIDS.

24 (16) Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie were  
25 the founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Par-

1        kinson Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and helped raise  
2        over \$50,000,000 for Parkinson’s research. The  
3        Center’s mission is to provide excellence in treat-  
4        ment, research, and education for patients and fami-  
5        lies affected by Parkinson’s disease and other move-  
6        ment disorders, regardless of their ability to pay.

7            (17) Muhammad Ali was an inspiration to  
8        countless individuals with Parkinson’s disease, in-  
9        cluding members of the Rock Steady Boxing Foun-  
10       dation in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was founded  
11       to give people with Parkinson’s disease hope by im-  
12       proving their quality of life using boxing for fitness.

13           (18) Muhammad Ali was one of the founding  
14        members of Athletes for Hope, an organization cre-  
15        ated by a few very successful athletes of exemplary  
16        character who have a deep commitment to charitable  
17        and community causes.

18           (19) Muhammad Ali also established the Mu-  
19        hammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville,  
20        Kentucky, which promotes respect, hope, and under-  
21        standing, and inspires people everywhere to be as  
22        great as they can be. A visitor of the Muhammad Ali  
23        Center experiences the “hows” of Ali’s life: How he  
24        found the courage, the dedication, and the discipline  
25        to become a world champion; how he found the con-

1 viction to stand up for what he believed; and how he  
2 turned his passion for excellence in the ring to a  
3 passion for peace on the world stage.

4 (20) Like Muhammad Ali himself, the Muham-  
5 mad Ali Center focuses on what brings individuals  
6 together, not what sets them apart, and is a “global  
7 gathering place” to which people can come, both on-  
8 line and in person, to learn, share, and celebrate our  
9 commonalities as human beings and to formulate  
10 ways of advancing humanity.

11 (21) Muhammad Ali helped to provide more  
12 than 22,000,000 aid packets to assist people in  
13 need, and until the last years of his life, he traveled,  
14 on average, more than 200 days per year for human-  
15 itarian causes.

16 (22) Muhammad Ali, known simply as “the  
17 greatest,” transcended the glamour and glory of  
18 being a sports champion to become not only one of  
19 the greatest sports figures, but one of the greatest  
20 role models of our time.

21 (23) On June 3, 2016, Muhammad Ali died at  
22 the age of 74.

23 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
25 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-



1 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
2 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold  
3 medal of appropriate design, to Muhammad Ali, in rec-  
4 ognition of his contributions to the Nation.

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

11 (c) TRANSFER OF MEDAL AFTER PRESENTATION.—  
12 Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of  
13 Muhammad Ali under subsection (a), the gold medal shall  
14 be given to his wife, Lonnie Ali.

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

16 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-  
17 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
18 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 at  
19 a price sufficient to cover the cost of the bronze medals  
20 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and  
21 overhead expenses) and the cost of the gold medal.

22 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

23 The medals struck under this Act are national medals  
24 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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