

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1399

To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Buffalo Soldier regiments, authorized by Congress in 1866 to serve in the United States Armed Forces, in recognition of their superior, dedicated, and vital service to our Nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. KIM of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and the Budget, 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

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Buffalo Soldier regiments, authorized by Congress in 1866 to serve in the United States Armed Forces, in recognition of their superior, dedicated, and vital service to our 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 “Buffalo Soldiers Con-  
5 gressional Gold Medal Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In 1866, Congress passed the Army Organi-  
4 zation Act which authorized the creation of six all-  
5 Black cavalry and infantry regiments. These regi-  
6 ments remained active until the Army was deseg-  
7 regated in 1951.

8 (2) According to legend, American Indians  
9 called the Black cavalry troops “Buffalo Soldiers”  
10 because of their dark, curly hair, which resembled a  
11 buffalo’s coat.

12 (3) The African-American troops accepted the  
13 name with pride and honor, as they were aware of  
14 the buffalo’s fierce bravery and fighting spirit.

15 (4) The original six regiments melded into the  
16 following four regiments:

17 (A) The 9th Cavalry Regiment assembled  
18 in New Orleans, Louisiana in August and Sep-  
19 tember of 1866. They were ordered to San An-  
20 tonio, Texas in April, 1867, with the mission to  
21 maintain order and to secure the road from San  
22 Antonia to El Paso.

23 (B) The 10th Cavalry Regiment gathered  
24 in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas during the sum-  
25 mer of 1867. In August, 1867, they were or-

1           dered to Fort Riley, Kansas with the mission of  
2           protecting the Pacific Railroad.

3           (C) The 24th Infantry Regiment was orga-  
4           nized in 1869, forming from the 38th and 41st  
5           Colored Infantry Regiments. They served  
6           throughout the Western United States, with the  
7           mission to protect frontier posts and secure  
8           roadways.

9           (D) The 25th Infantry Regiment assem-  
10          bled at Camp William Penn, Pennsylvania be-  
11          ginning in January 1864. They were assigned  
12          to numerous districts within the Department of  
13          the Gulf with the mission to maintain security.

14          (5) Buffalo Soldiers also assisted in the protec-  
15          tion of National Parks. They helped fight wildfires  
16          and poachers in the Yosemite and Sequoia National  
17          Parks and served as park rangers in the Sierra Ne-  
18          vada.

19          (6) In the Spanish American War, all four regi-  
20          ments played key roles and fought with distinction,  
21          despite facing severe discrimination from the locals.

22          (7) At the start of World War I, the Buffalo  
23          Soldier regiments were dispatched to locations  
24          throughout central United States and into the Pa-

1 cific, offering logistics and support behind the front  
2 lines in the American Expeditionary Forces.

3 (8) During World War II, African-American  
4 soldiers and units continued to serve proudly under  
5 the name “Buffalo Soldier”, including the 92nd In-  
6 fantry Division, which was the only Black division  
7 that saw combat in Europe.

8 (9) In the Korean War, Buffalo Soldier regi-  
9 ments fought throughout the Korean peninsula,  
10 from the defense of the “Pusan Perimeter” to the  
11 counteroffensives which resulted in the end of armed  
12 hostilities and the creation of the Demilitarized  
13 Zone.

14 (10) Buffalo Soldiers had the lowest military  
15 desertion and court-martial rates of their time. In  
16 recognition of combat valor and their actions beyond  
17 the call of duty, many were awarded the Congres-  
18 sional Medal of Honor.

19 (11) The Congressional Gold Medal would be  
20 an appropriate way to shed further light on the serv-  
21 ice of the Buffalo Soldiers and the instrumental role  
22 they played in instilling an approach to inclusivity  
23 within our military and the American way of life.

1 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the  
3 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore  
4 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the  
5 award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of  
6 appropriate design to the Buffalo Soldier regiments, au-  
7 thorized by Congress in 1866 to serve in the United States  
8 Armed Forces, in recognition of their superior, dedicated,  
9 and vital service to our Nation.

10 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
11 award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the  
12 Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall  
13 strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and  
14 inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

15 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the  
17 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal  
18 shall be given to the National Museum of African  
19 American History and Culture of the Smithsonian  
20 Institution, where it shall be displayed as appro-  
21 priate and made available for research.

22 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
23 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should  
24 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)  
25 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other

1 locations and events associated with the Buffalo Sol-  
2 diers.

3 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

4 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
5 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
6 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
7 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
8 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

9 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

10 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under  
11 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51  
12 of title 31, United States Code.

13 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
14 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
15 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

16 **SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

17 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
18 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
19 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
20 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
21 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
22 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-  
23 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
24 vote on passage.

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