

139th Congress
1st Session

H.R.16

To amend title 36, United States Code, to direct the President to issue an annual proclamation establishing the Japanese Internment National Day of Remembrance, and to award Japanese internees with the Congressional Gold Medal.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2021

Mr. MILLER (for himself, Mr. LEVI, Mr. O’CONNOR, Mr. GOODMAN, Mr. RUDD) introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to direct the President to issue an annual proclamation establishing the Japanese Internment National Day of Remembrance, and to award Japanese internees with the Congressional Gold Medal.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Japanese Internment National Day of Remembrance and Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (1) Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, out of fear of insider talks between Japanese-Americans about another attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which ordered for the discriminatory internment of Japanese-Americans.
- (2) A man named Fred Korematsu refused to go to the internment camp, and was arrested and forced to go there. Korematsu then sued the United States to try and strike down Executive Order 9066 in *Korematsu v. United States*. The Supreme Court upheld the Executive Order.

- (3) Decades after the end of World War II, President Ronald Reagan signed into law a bill that would give each living Japanese-American that was put in an internment camp during World War II \$20,000 (around 44,465.60 in 2021).
- (4) In 1998, President Bill Clinton awarded Fred Korematsu with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

SEC. 3. JAPANESE INTERNMENT NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE.

- (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—[Chapter 1](#) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 110, the following:

“§111. Japanese Internment National Day of Remembrance

“(a) DESIGNATION.—February 19 shall be known as the ‘Japanese Internment National Day of Remembrance’.

“(b) PROCLAMATION.—On the date described in subsection (a), the President shall issue a proclamation each year urging citizens to—

“(1) remember the hardships of Japanese-Americans in America during World War II;

“(2) remember the significance of Japanese-American civil rights leaders during the internment period, for the Japanese-American community and for the civil rights movement; and

“(3) recognize the Supreme Court case of *Korematsu v. United States*, which upheld the discriminatory internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

- (b) AMENDMENTS WITH RESPECT TO OTHER SECTIONS.—Chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 144 as section 136;

(2) by redesignating section 145 as section 142; and

(3) by redesignating each section accordingly with the amendments of this section.

- (c) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 110 the following:

“111. Japanese Internment National Day of Remembrance.”.

SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

- (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.— The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration of the Japanese-Americans interned during World War II.
- (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, as determined by the Secretary.

- (c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—After the award of the gold medal referred to in this Act, the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institute, where it shall be displayed as the Institute deems appropriate.

SEC. 5. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 4, at a price sufficient to cover all costs of production of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 6. STATUS OF MEDALS.

- (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.
- (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this Act shall go into effect immediately after it is signed into law.
