



IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Mr. O'Connor (for himself, Mr. Ross, Mr. Reagan, Ms. Harris, Mr. Trump, Mr. Briggs, Mr. Toby) introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration of Charles Sumner

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 “Charles Sumner Congressional Gold Medal Act”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (a) Charles Sumner worked closely with Lincoln to ensure the British and the French refrained from intervening on the side of the Confederacy during the Civil War, bringing a much greater chance of the Union would win the Civil War, and end Slavery in the United States of America.
- (b) Throughout the war, Sumner had been a champion for Slaves and Black People, being the most vigorous advocate of emancipation, of enlisting blacks in the Union Army, and of the establishment of the Freedmen's Bureau. As one of the Radical Republican leaders in the post-war Senate, Sumner fought to provide equal civil and voting rights for the freedmen on the grounds that "consent of the governed" was a basic principle of

American republicanism and in order to keep ex-Confederates from gaining political offices and undoing the North's victory in the Civil War.

- (c) As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sumner renewed his efforts to win U.S. diplomatic recognition of Haiti. Haiti had sought recognition since winning independence in 1804, but faced opposition from Southern senators. In their absence, the U.S. recognized Haiti in 1862, partly due to Sumner's work.
- (d) Representative Preston Brooks brutally beat Senator Charles Sumner after Sumner gave a fiery speech attacking slavery and its practitioners, Sumner suffered head trauma that caused him chronic, debilitating pain for the rest of his life and symptoms consistent with what is now called traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder; he spent three years convalescing before returning to his Senate seat.
- (e) In 1870, Sumner helped defeat President Ulysses S. Grant's proposal to annex Santo Domingo. As a result, Grant brought about Sumner's removal from the chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee in an act of Bitterness.

SEC. 3. 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 Charles Sumner.

(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.

SEC. 4. 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 3, at a price sufficient to cover all costs of production of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) 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.