

173rd CONGRESS

S.1

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Introduced by Sen. Pluribus, for themselves, Sen. Harris-Charest, Sen. Emperio.

A BILL

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

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

SECTION 1. Short Title

(a) This Act may be cited as the Muhammad Ali Posthumous Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2024.

SEC. 2. Findings

Congress finds:

(1)Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., on January 17, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, Muhammad Ali was the first child of Cassius, Sr., and Odessa Clay.

(2) Muhammad Ali was one of the most celebrated athletes of the 20th century. He produced some of America's greatest sports memories, from winning a gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer Olympics.

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

(4) Muhammad Ali defeated every challenger he faced in the ring. But, on April 28, 1967, he was stripped of his boxing title and barred from competing for being a conscientious objector to the war in Vietnam on religious and moral grounds. However, following a unanimous United States Supreme Court decision in 1971, Muhammad Ali's conscientious objector status was confirmed, his boxing license was reinstated, and he was cleared of any wrongdoing.

(5) As an African American and a Muslim who lived in an era that continued to question his civil rights, Muhammad Ali battled issues of race and religion, and received recognition as one of the champions of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

(6) Muhammad Ali was the recipient of many awards for his sporting prowess and his support of racial harmony, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Award, the Spirit of America Award, the Amnesty International Lifetime Achievement Award, the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, the Essence Living Legend Award, the Rainbow Coalition Lifetime Achievement Award, the XNBA Human Spirit Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

(7) Muhammad Ali was acknowledged by many organizations for his achievements both inside and outside the boxing ring, including being crowned Sportsman of the Century by Sports Illustrated, being named Athlete of the Century by GQ magazine, being named Sports Personality of the Century by the British Broadcasting Corporation, being named Kentucky Athlete of the Century

by the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, being named Kentuckian of the Century by the State of Kentucky, being named Louisvillian of the Century by the Advertising Club of Louisville, being named Boxer of the Century by the World Sports Awards of the Century, being recognized by the International Boxing Hall of Fame, and receiving honorary doctorate degrees from Muhlenberg College and Western Kentucky University, as well as an honorary doctorate of humanities at Princeton University's 260th graduation ceremony.

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

(9) Muhammad Ali was selected by the California Bicentennial Foundation for the U.S. Constitution for personifying the vitality of the Bill of Rights in various high-profile activities.

(10) Despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's Syndrome in the early 1980s, Muhammad Ali dedicated his life to the cause of universal human rights and freedom. His commitment to equal justice and peace touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

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

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

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

(14) Several Presidents of the United States recognized Muhammad Ali, including President George W. Bush who, on November 17, 2002, called him a man of peace and stated that across the world, billions of people know Muhammad Ali as a brave, compassionate, and charming man, and the American people are proud to call Muhammad Ali one of our own, President Bill Clinton who stated that Muhammad Ali captured the world's imagination and its heart. Outside the ring, Muhammad Ali has dedicated his life to working for children, feeding the hungry, supporting his faith, and standing up for racial equality. He always fought for a just and more humane world, breaking down barriers here in America and around the world. There is no telling how many tens of millions of people had their hearts swell with pride and their eyes swell with tears in 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic torch, because we know, now and forever, he is the greatest, President Jimmy Carter who cited Muhammad Ali as Mr. International Friendship, and President Barack Obama who, as a Senator, had a framed picture of Muhammad Ali hanging in his office, and before announcing his intentions to run for President, Obama visited with Muhammad Ali at the Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

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

(16) Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie were the founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and helped raise over

\$50,000,000 for Parkinson's research. The Center's mission is to provide excellence in treatment, research, and education for patients and families affected by Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, regardless of their ability to pay.

(17) Muhammad Ali was an inspiration to countless individuals with Parkinson's disease, including members of the Rock Steady Boxing Foundation in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was founded to give people with Parkinson's disease hope by improving their quality of life using boxing for fitness.

(18) Muhammad Ali was one of the founding members of Athletes for Hope, an organization created by a few very successful athletes of exemplary character who have a deep commitment to charitable and community causes.

(19) Muhammad Ali also established the Muhammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, which promotes respect, hope, and understanding, and inspires people everywhere to be as great as they can be. A visitor of the Muhammad Ali Center experiences the hows of Ali's life: How he found the courage, the dedication, and the discipline to become a world champion; how he found the conviction to stand up for what he believed; and how he turned his passion for excellence in the ring to a passion for peace on the world stage.

(20) Like Muhammad Ali himself, the Muhammad Ali Center focuses on what brings individuals together, not what sets them apart, and is a global gathering place to which people can come, both online and in person, to learn, share, and celebrate our commonalities as human beings and to formulate ways of advancing humanity.

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

(22) Muhammad Ali, known simply as the greatest, transcended the glamor and glory of being a sports champion to become not only one of the greatest sports figures, but one of the greatest role models of our time for countless Americans and people around the world.

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

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, to Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the Nation.

(b) Design and striking. -

For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the Secretary) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) Transfer of medal after presentation. -

Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of Muhammad Ali under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to his wife, Lonnie Ali.

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 pursuant to section 3 at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the bronze medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. Appropriations

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

SEC. 6. Authority to use fund amounts; proceeds.

(a) Authority To use fund amounts.-

There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) Proceeds of sale.-

Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.