

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4689

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Bobby Bowden, in honor of his achievements both on and off the football field.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2021

Mr. DUNN (for himself, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. STEUBE, and Mrs. CAMMACK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Bobby Bowden, in honor of his achievements both on and off the football field.

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 “Robert Cleckler Bow-

5 den Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Bobby Bowden was born on November 8,
2 1929, in Birmingham, Alabama.

3 (2) Bobby Bowden served as head coach of the
4 Florida State University Seminoles from 1976 to
5 2009.

6 (3) While coaching at the Florida State Univer-
7 sity, Bowden’s teams won two national champion-
8 ships (1993 and 1999) and 12 Atlantic Coast Con-
9 ference titles.

10 (4) Bobby Bowden posted a 316–97–4 record in
11 his 34 years at Florida State University.

12 (5) Throughout his entire 44 years of coaching
13 college football, Bobby Bowden won a total of 377
14 games, making him one of the winningest coaches in
15 college football history.

16 (6) Bobby Bowden and wife, Ann Estock, his
17 childhood sweetheart, have been married for 72
18 years. The couple has six children, 21 grandchildren
19 and great-grandchildren.

20 (7) In 1999, he coached what would be the first
21 of many games against a team coached by his son,
22 “The Bowden Bowl”. This event was the first of its
23 kind in the history of Division I–A football.

24 (8) In 2004, the Fellowship of Christian Ath-
25 letes’ organization began presenting an annual “The

1 National Bobby Bowden Award” to a football player
2 for philanthropic work.

3 (9) In 2011, he was awarded the “Children’s
4 Champion Award for Leadership Development” by
5 the Children’s Hunger Fund, a charitable organiza-
6 tion, in recognition of his humanitarian work.

7 (10) In 2021, Bobby Bowden received the inau-
8 gural Florida Governor’s Medal of Freedom Award.

9 (11) Bobby Bowden leaves a legacy of leader-
10 ship for his contributions on the football field and in
11 his community.

12 (12) While Coach Bowden is recognized for his
13 many football accomplishments, he will be remem-
14 bered as a family man who counted all as part of
15 his family and encouraged us all to recognize our
16 own humanity and love our many brothers and sis-
17 ters.

18 (13) We are better for having known him, even
19 if we never met him. He stood for our best, recog-
20 nized our failings, and believed we all had merit.

21 (14) Coach Bowden’s spirit is the American
22 spirit of which we can be proud and seek to emulate
23 in both large and small ways.

1 (15) Coach Bowden never asked for accolades,
2 and for this, and the totality of his life and his love,
3 we honor him in perpetuity.

4 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

5 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
6 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
7 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
8 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
9 medal of appropriate design to Mr. Robert Cleckler Bow-
10 den, in recognition of his achievements both on and off
11 the football field.

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

17 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

18 (a) STRIKING OF DUPLICATES.—Under such regula-
19 tions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may
20 strike duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under
21 section 3.

22 (b) SELLING OF DUPLICATES.—The Secretary may
23 sell such duplicates under subsection (a) at a price suffi-
24 cient to cover the costs of such duplicates, including labor,
25 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
3 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
4 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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