

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5718

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Prince Rogers Nelson,
in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American culture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2021

Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. McCOLLUM, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. EMMER, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. STAUBER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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

A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to
Prince Rogers Nelson, in recognition of his achievements
and contributions to American culture.

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 “Prince Congressional
5 Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that:

1 (1) Prince Rogers Nelson was born in Min-
2 neapolis, Minnesota, on June 7, 1958, the son of
3 jazz singer Mattie Della (née Shaw) and pianist and
4 songwriter John Louis Nelson. Widely regarded as
5 one of the greatest musicians of his generation, his
6 innovative music incorporated elements of rock,
7 R&B, funk, hip-hop, new wave, synth-pop, and jazz.

8 (2) Prince released 39 albums during his life
9 and produced countless others, along with many
10 unreleased projects left in a vault at his home.

11 (3) Recognized as a musical prodigy from an
12 early age, Prince signed a recording contract with
13 Warner Brothers Records at the age of 19, writing,
14 producing, arranging, and playing all 27 instruments
15 on the recording.

16 (4) His 1984 album, “Purple Rain”, spent six
17 consecutive months as the number 1 record on the
18 Billboard 200 charts, spawning five top 10 hits, in-
19 cluding “When Doves Cry” and the title track. The
20 movie of the same name won him the Academy
21 Award for “Best Original Song Score”. In 2019, the
22 film Purple Rain was added by the Library of Con-
23 gress for preservation in the National Film Registry
24 for being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically
25 significant”.

1 (5) His 1987 double album “Sign o’ the Times”
2 includes more than 80 minutes of music almost en-
3 tirely composed and performed by Prince and would
4 go on to be his most acclaimed record, being voted
5 as 1987’s best album in the Pazz & Jop Critics’
6 Poll. In 2017, the album was inducted into the
7 Grammy Hall of Fame.

8 (6) A prolific composer, Prince wrote many
9 songs made famous by other musicians, including
10 “Nothing Compares 2 U”, “Manic Monday”, and “I
11 Feel For You”.

12 (7) An advocate for artistic freedom and ex-
13 pression, Prince changed his name to the following
14 symbol (also known as the “Prince Symbol”) to pro-
15 test the terms of his recording contract and the re-
16 cording industry’s treatment of all artists, and pub-
17 licly advocated for artists to be able to maintain
18 ownership of their own master recordings:



19 (8) A lifelong Minnesota resident, Prince was a
20 participant and supporter of the local Minneapolis

1 arts community, memorialized in songs like “Up-
2 town”.

3 (9) Though he did not speak publicly of his
4 charity work during his life, Prince was an animal
5 rights activist and philanthropist.

6 (10) Prince sold more than 150 million records
7 worldwide, ranking him among the best selling art-
8 ists of all time.

9 (11) He won seven Grammy Awards, seven Brit
10 Awards, six American Music Awards, four MTV
11 Video Music Awards, an Academy Award (for “Best
12 Original Song Score” for the film *Purple Rain*), and
13 a Golden Globe Award. In 2004, Prince was in-
14 ducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the
15 UK Music Hall of Fame in 2006, and the Rhythm
16 and Blues Music Hall of Fame in 2016. He received
17 the BET Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. He
18 was posthumously honored with a doctor of humane
19 letters by the University of Minnesota in 2016. Two
20 of his albums, “*Purple Rain*” (1984) and “*Sign o’*
21 *the Times*” (1987), received the Grammy Award for
22 “Album of the Year” nominations. At the 28th
23 Grammy Awards, Prince was awarded the Presi-
24 dent’s Merit Award. Prince was also honored with
25 the American Music Award for Achievement and

1 American Music Award of Merit at the American
2 Music Awards of 1990 and American Music Awards
3 of 1995 respectively. At the 2013 Billboard Music
4 Awards, he was honored with the Billboard Icon
5 Award.

6 (12) Prince transcended this earthly plane on
7 April 21, in his Minnesota home at age 57, leaving
8 behind a legacy of musical achievement and an in-
9 delible mark on Minnesota and American culture.

10 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

11 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
12 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
13 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
14 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-
15 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-
16 ration of Prince, in recognition of his achievements and
17 contributions to American culture.

18 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
19 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
20 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
21 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
22 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
23 retary.

24 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
2 gold medal in honor of Prince under subsection (a),
3 the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian In-
4 stitution, where it shall be available for display as
5 appropriate and made available for research.

6 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
7 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall
8 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
9 available for display, particularly at the National
10 Museum of African American History and Culture,
11 or for loan as appropriate so that it may be dis-
12 played elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate
13 locations associated with the life of Prince.

14 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

20 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

24 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
25 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals

- 1 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
- 2 items.

