

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6015

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MANN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. TRONE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. LURIA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SOTO, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MENG, and Mr. CICILLINE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Benjamin Berell
3 Ferencz Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Benjamin “Ben” Berell Ferencz was born
7 on March 11, 1920, in Transylvania, now modern
8 day Hungary.

9 (2) In 1920, Ben and his family fled anti-Se-
10 mitic persecution and emigrated to the United
11 States. Ben grew up in New York City, and in 1940,
12 was awarded a scholarship to Harvard Law School
13 where he graduated with honors.

14 (3) After the onset of World War II, Ben en-
15 listed in the United States Army in 1943, and joined
16 an anti-aircraft artillery battalion preparing for the
17 invasion of France. As an enlisted man under Gen-
18 eral Patton, he fought in most of the major cam-
19 paigns in Europe.

20 (4) As Nazi atrocities were uncovered, Ben was
21 transferred to a newly created War Crimes Branch
22 of the Army to gather evidence of war crimes that
23 could be used in a court of law to prosecute persons
24 responsible for these crimes. Ben documented the
25 horrors perpetrated by Nazi Germany, visiting con-
26 centration camps as they were liberated.

1 (5) At the end of 1945, Ben was honorably dis-
2 charged from the United States Army with the rank
3 of Sergeant of Infantry. He had been awarded five
4 battle stars.

5 (6) In 1946, the United States Government re-
6 cruited Ben to join the team working on the Nurem-
7 berg tribunals, a novel independent court established
8 to try top-ranking Nazi officials for crimes per-
9 petrated during the course of the war, including
10 those crimes we now call the Holocaust. Mr. Ferencz
11 was sent to Berlin to oversee a team of 50 research-
12 ers investigating official Nazi records, which pro-
13 vided overwhelming evidence to implicate German
14 doctors, lawyers, judges, generals, industrialists, and
15 others in genocide.

16 (7) By 1948, at age 27, Ben had secured
17 enough evidence to prosecute 22 SS members of
18 Nazi killing squads charged for the murder of over
19 1,000,0000 Jewish, Roma, Soviet, and other men,
20 women, and children in shooting massacres in occu-
21 pied Soviet territory. He was appointed chief pros-
22 ecutor in the Einsatzgruppen Trial, in what the As-
23 sociated Press called “the biggest murder trial in
24 history”. The court found 20 Nazi officials guilty of
25 war crimes, crimes against humanity, and member-

1 ship in a criminal organization for their roles in the
2 murder of over a million people. An additional two
3 defendants were found guilty for membership in a
4 criminal organization.

5 (8) After the Nuremberg trials ended, Ben
6 fought for compensation for victims and survivors of
7 the Holocaust, the return of stolen assets, and other
8 forms of restitution for those who had suffered at
9 the hands of the Nazis.

10 (9) Since the 1970s, Ben has worked tirelessly
11 to promote development of international mechanisms
12 to outlaw and punish aggressive war and the crimes
13 of genocide, crimes against humanity and war
14 crimes. His efforts contributed to the establishment
15 of the International Criminal Court and to the rec-
16 ognition of aggression as an international crime.

17 (10) Ben is a tireless advocate for international
18 criminal justice and the conviction that the rule of
19 law offers the world a sustainable path to stem con-
20 flict and reach peaceful conclusions to geopolitical
21 disputes. His unwavering goal has been “to establish
22 a legal precedent that would encourage a more hu-
23 mane and secure world in the future”.

24 (11) Ben, at age 101, is still active, giving
25 speeches throughout the world about lessons learned

1 during his extraordinary career. He is compelled by
2 the imperative to “replace the rule of force with the
3 rule of law”, promoting judicial mechanisms that
4 can resolve conflict. He often tells young people to
5 “never give up” because the fight for peace and jus-
6 tice is worth the long struggle ahead.

7 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

8 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
9 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
10 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
11 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
12 medal of appropriate design to Benjamin Berell Ferencz,
13 in recognition of his service to the United States and inter-
14 national community during the post-World War II Nurem-
15 berg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal
16 justice and rule of law.

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

23 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell
25 duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant

1 to section 3 under such regulations as the Secretary may
2 prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof,
3 including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and
4 overhead expenses.

5 (b) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MU-
6 SEUM.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
8 a duplicate medal described under subsection (a) to
9 the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

10 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
11 Congress that the United States Holocaust Memo-
12 rial Museum should make the duplicate medal re-
13 ceived under this subsection available for display to
14 the public whenever the United States Holocaust
15 Memorial Museum determines that such display is
16 timely, feasible, and practical.

17 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

18 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
19 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
20 51 of title 31, United States Code.

21 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
22 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
23 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

1 **SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

2 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
3 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
4 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
5 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
6 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
7 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
8 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
9 vote on passage.

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